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Maine Farmer.

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Maine Farmer.

Z. A. GILBERT, Agricultural Editor.

The large crowd in attendance at the closing session of the joint dairy conference only demonstrated the fact that the men from Maine claimed attention as well as those from New York, and the audience remained to hear Mr. Alden and Mr. Ellis of the Dairymen's Association.

The new creamery at Canton made a good showing at the Lewiston exhibition, and the best part of it is, their butter is finding a ready sale at full market prices. Score another success for a strictly coöperative creamery. This creamery is copied after the new Turner creamery in every particular, organization and apparatus.

The liveliest yearling in Maine to-day is the State Dairymen's Association. Those who objected to its birth and predicted its early decay can to-day find evidence of unusual activity and a long life of usefulness. Its mission will but be begun when it secures a State Dairy and Food Commissioner to protect the great dairy interests of the state.

New Zealand has recently enacted a law, one clause of which provides that "in every case where dairy produce is condemned by an inspector, he shall, at the cost and expense of the owner, cause the same to be removed to boiling down works, soap works or the place where such produce shall be so treated as to be absolutely unfitted for consumption."

The proposition for a great live-stock exhibition at Chicago, in December, one year, takes like hot cake. An organization has already been perfected and ample funds have been provided to make up a liberal premium list. It is proposed to make the exposition international, and Canada and Great Britain have already signified their readiness to take a hand in it.

The good old town of Cumberland scored a creditable record at the exhibition as a private dairy town. The highest score in the exhibition went to a dairyman of that town, and three others from the same town were among the high scoring prize takers. A large amount of fancy dairy butter goes from that town to supply private families in the city of Portland, nearly if not quite 300 lbs. a week.

THE BUTTER EXHIBITION AT LEWISTON.

Sixteen of our state creameries were represented in the butter exhibition, and showed a very even quality of product right through. There is evidence all around that our Maine creameries are improving their make of butter as a longer study and greater experience give them a knowledge of how it can be done.

In the private dairy class there were seventy entries, though quite a number of duplicates were among them, smuggled in for some particular purpose known only to the exhibitor. It is manifestly unfair to load down a judge with duplicates of the same make, from the same churning, for purposes of no public interest. All these samples were in ten-pound tubs and of course of no account to look at.

In the class of display there was no such elaborate effort as was seen at Portland a year ago, there being six exhibits by the following parties: Mrs. L. F. Dolloff, Mt. Vernon, J. H. Moore, Winthrop. Mrs. S. L. Brimner, Mariaville, H. B. Whipple, Bingham, Waterford Creamery and Pittsfield Creamery. These were the only attractive part of the butter show, and all gave evidence of skill in the handling of this delicate material.

The butter was scored by Mr. Dodge of New York city. Just why it was necessary to go to that distant city for a judge does not appear and surely his work does not confirm the selection. The score all through was low in the extreme, unjustly so, and the only effect will be to damage the Maine product. Very properly there was "something said about it." Much dissatisfaction found expression, not only from exhibitors, but from members of the dairymen's association well posted in butter scores. Evidently he scored the state rather than the butter, as Mr. Ellis would express it. After winning the honorable position we did in the interstate competition of last year at Portland where Maine butter commanded the highest score in competition with Vermont and New Hampshire, and having since a full year's experience, this man comes in and by a standard foreign to our product scores far below anything known for years.

Far better for our butter makers had they sent their samples to the National Butter exhibit, for in competition there the record would have been much more to our credit than this "expert" gave.

Evidently this New York judge came here with the preconceived idea that we were beyond the borders of dairy civilization and where such a thing as a scale of points and a score card were never before heard of. On the platform the next morning he proceeded to enlighten the dairymen present as to what was meant by scoring butter and how the scale is applied, and informed us that this method of grading quality was adopted *two years ago* by the New York Commercial Exchange. "The scoring of butter," he went on to say, "would lead us to scoring in making awards in other lines, such as stock, etc., where a comparison of merit is involved." He did not know that ten years before his Commercial Exchange adopted this method, experts from Maine were called to apply the scale and score card to dairy exhibits in New York city, and that it was here, in Maine years ago, that a scale of points for judging horses and dairy cows originated and has been applied at our great competitive fairs, as well as adopted by authorities in other states. Mr. Dodge was not addressing an assembly of dairymen ignorant of the score card! They have long been under its instruction, and know where it is justly used. Secretary McKeen will do well next time not to go outside the area of Maine's butter market for a judge. The result is an insult to the state and cannot fail of being damaging to our dairy industry. With so many of our state creameries and private dairymen finding unmistakable proof in their markets of a high quality of product, manifested in an increasing demand, it is particularly unfortunate that they should at this time meet this damaging injustice.

The highest score was 95 and that on only one sample. It looks singular that in nearly a hundred samples there was only one that would pass as New York extra, when our best makes sell current in Boston market on a par with Vermont extra, and are sought for on the table of many of the most tony hotels in New England.

We give the detailed score of all samples scoring 88 and above.

	Flavor.	Grain.	Color.	Salting.	General Appearance	Totals.
Perfection	50	25	10	10	5	-100
F W Blanchard, Cumberland Ctr	45	25	10	10	5	95
C E Tibbetts, E Exeter	42½	25	10	10	5	92½
S S J Porter, Cumberland Ctr	43	24	10	10	5	92
G O Wells, Mt Vernon	42	25	10	10	5	92
D S Glidden, Cooper's Mills	42	25	10	10	5	92
C I Grinnell, E Exeter	42	25	10	10	5	92
Jere O'Roak, Sherman Mills	43	24	10	10	5	92
Fred J Locke, Mt Vernon	41	25	10	10	5	91
E E Chase, So Bethel	41	25	10	10	5	91
F P Blanchard & Son, Cumberland Ctr	41	25	10	10	5	91
L W Dyer, Cumberland Ctr	41	25	10	10	5	91
S M King, So Paris	42	25	10	9	5	91
A W Whitehouse, Norway	41	25	10	10	5	91
R W Prescott, Augusta	41	25	10	10	5	91
J W Comins, E Eddington	40	25	10	10	5	90
N B Young & Son, N Lamoine	40	25	10	10	5	90
Mrs L H Strout, Kent's Hill	42	23	10	10	5	90
J O Fish, China	41	24	10	10	5	90
H. B. Whipple, Bingham	43	23	9	10	5	90
Mrs J M Freeman, Sabattus	42	24	9	10	5	90
Sprague A Taylor, Fairfield Ctr	41	24	10	10	5	90
C A Clough, Readfield Depot	40	25	10	10	5	90
J W Luce, West Troy	40	25	10	10	5	90
J Henry Moore, Winthrop	41	24	10	10	5	90
E C Tarr, Topsham	39	25	10	10	5	89
E W Hall, Mt Vernon	39	25	10	10	5	89
F S Blanchard, Cumberland Ctr	40	24	10	10	5	89
W D Slipp, Houlton	39	25	10	10	5	89
C F Johnson, Dexter	40	24	10	10	5	89
Mrs C A Channing, Clinton	39	25	10	10	5	89
Mrs Sylvester Ham, Hartland	40	24	10	10	5	89
W W Russell, Solon	39	25	10	10	5	89
Daniel H. Soule, Phillips	40	25	9	10	5	89
E B Heresy, No Waterford	40	24	10	10	5	89
H L Wing, Knox Station	39	25	10	10	5	89
J O Butman, Readfield	39	25	10	9	5	88
Latona Farm, N Hancock	39	24	10	10	5	88
H L Page, E Eddington	41	23	9	10	5	88
C N Dorr, So Dover	40	23	10	10	5	88
J A Roberts, Norway	39	24	10	10	5	88
A J Abbott, No Paris	39	24	10	10	5	88
P A Rich, Charlotte	39	24	10	10	5	88
H B Gray, No Bluehill	38	25	10	10	5	88
W T Mace, Readfield Depot	40	25	9	9	5	88
Mrs E E Hardy, E Wilton	39	24	10	10	5	88
C E Williams, Bowdoinham	40	24	10	9	5	88
Seigars Bros, Bowdoinham	39	24	10	10	5	88
W P Atherton, Hallowell	39	24	10	10	5	88
Mrs T M Merrill, New Gloucester	39	25	10	10	4	88
Mrs S A Davis, E New Portland	40	24	10	9	5	88
F S Haskell, West Cumberland	39	24	10	10	5	88
J B Bryant, Buckfield	39	24	10	10	5	88
W B Guptill, Topsham	39	24	10	10	5	88
L F Dolloff, Mt Vernon	39	24	10	10	5	88
Edgar E Robinson, Mt Vernon	39	24	10	10	5	88
Creamery Butter.						
Bethel Dairying Co, Bethel	43½	25	10	10	5	93½
Turner Center Dairying Ass'n, Auburn	44	25	10	9	5	93
Crystal Spring Creamery, Unity	42	25	10	10	5	92
Canton Creamery, Canton	42	24	10	10	5	91
Gardiner Cream'ry Co, Gardiner	42	24	10	10	5	91
Hillside Creamery, Exeter	42	25	10	10	4	91
Warren Creamery, So Warren	41	25	10	10	5	91
Cushnoc Creamery, Augusta	40	25	10	10	5	90
E E Light, Union	40	25	10	10	5	90
Pittsfield Creamery, Pittsfield	40	25	10	10	5	90
W Paris Creamery, W Paris	42	23	10	10	5	90
William Bradford, Turner	40	25	10	10	5	90
Clinton Creamery, Clinton						90
Sparkling Spring Creamery Co, So Norridgewock	39	25	10	10	5	89
Waterford Creamery So Waterford	39	24	10	10	5	88
J P Leland & Son, E Sangerville	40	23	10	10	5	88

Fancy Butter Display.

L F Dolloff, Mt Vernon, 1st; Mrs S L Brimner, Tilden, 2d; Waterford Creamery, South Waterford, 3d; J Henry Moore, Winthrop, 4th.

A. L. & E. F. Goss Co., Special.

Butter made from cream separated by U S Separator, C L Jones, Corinna, 1st; Henry T Simpson, Brunswick, 2d.

[CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.]

MAINE STATE GRANGE.

Twenty-Sixth Annual Session, Held at Augusta, December 19 20, 21. 1899.

MASTER'S ADDRESS.

Worthy Patrons of Maine State Grange:

We have assembled in annual session in obedience to the Constitution of the State Grange, to devise ways and means to build up, strengthen, and in every way solidify and more firmly establish the principles and purposes of our Order in the hearts of our agricultural people until every farm home in our State shall be represented in our great membership. We have thoroughly demonstrated that in union there is strength, and that only by recognizing and always practicing the tenets of our Order, of individual duties and responsibilities associated with combined effort, we are bound to win in the end. Yet with every success attained we are just on the threshold of our usefulness, our work is to be onward and upward, increasing our influence for good, and causing the Order to be looked upon as permanent as our schools and our churches on the eternal hills.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

Sometimes we get somewhat discouraged and think progress altogether too slow, yet when we compare our present situation with the conditions of the early days of our existence as an organization in the Pine Tree State; when we review the past, recognizing what has been accomplished, the steps resulting in the present magnificent membership of substantially 25,000. No one can go among our subordinate granges without being firmly impressed with the idea that the major part of them are working along the lines of grange endeavor so clearly set forth in our declaration of purposes, are doing a great good, and are fast approaching the goal of *united effort.* The many grange homes, with all their embellishments, their well-stocked libraries, their moral influences for good (not only among their members but throughout the community, where the grange is located) are all evidences of progress and prosperity, and as we meet in our capital city, in the beautiful Kennebec Valley, within the shadow of so many grange homes, our summary is, that taken all in all, our Order never was so strong, so well organized, as at the present time. Our increased strength has been largely through our established granges. We have organized seven new granges, and re-organized seven. Our new granges are all strong in grange doctrine, giving renewed vigor to true grange principles, and in some respects are examples that many of the older granges would do well to imitate.

There have been erected and dedicated to work and purposes of the grange during the year, five fine grange halls, as follows: South Sangerville, No. 335, Lincoln No. 341, York, 340, Fair View, 342, and North Augusta. The last named is deserving of especial notice. Organized in April, 1899, with (as we number) 33 charter members and no hall, holding their meetings in a school house, they have erected one of the finest grange halls in the State, all completed, and dedicated Dec. 2, 1899, with membership at that time of 125. They have demonstrated, in a way, what our full membership could do when they are ready to work together for the common good. New halls have also been built and are nearly completed by Littleton and Monticello Granges, Aroostook county.

We now come to a matter that I approach with extreme reluctance, and yet to my mind it is one of vital importance to the future of this Order: Certain brethren with more desire for notoriety than for the good of the order, have felt called upon during the year to discuss the "inside work of the Order" in the public print. I not only doubt the wisdom, but question the honesty of the motives in so doing. It is safe to say that this method has not brought a desirable member within our gates, nor kindled the zeal of one already there. Had any officer been guilty of wrong-doing his accusers should have presented formal charges against him at the proper place. Had any failed in his duty, the majority of this body are intelligent enough to know it, and altogether free to elect some one in his place; but parading our private matters before the public is ruinous. All kindred organizations who have kept their private affairs to themselves have stood the test of years, while those who have discussed theirs in the public print have ceased to be a power. If we are to build up our organization and command the respect of others, we must cease the discussion of our private differences in the public print and with united effort and full confidence sustain those whom we choose as leaders.

The disposition of some of our subordinate granges to violate and evade the laws by means that discredit the Order in the whole State, is the same as that which goes into print with matter that pertains to the Order alone. Harsh measures are sometimes necessary in dealing with these conditions. I will venture this: That no grange in existence exerts an influence for good whose members are spoiling its opportunities by frittering away time trying to develop some scheme whereby the laws of the Order can be violated. No other Order ever continued to prosper for a long period of time composed of a membership not honest enough to respect and honor obligations solemnly and voluntarily assumed. We feel thankful that, as we believe, this is represented by a very small element in our State, and I am firmly of the opinion that if such will not comply with the laws of the Order as interpreted by the National Master, and formulated by the National Grange then the State officers have no other recourse than to administer the law of the higher body whose servants they are. I have gone slowly in this matter in hopes that all would see the fallacy of wrong-doing, but am now satisfied that it becomes an imperative necessity to move with a firm hand and rid the organization of its baneful effects. I am prompted to speak thus plainly that all may understand my position. It seems to me that the whole future of the Grange depends upon maintaining its integrity, and I pledge myself to help those who would sustain the honor and strengthen the obligations of the Order.

Some Patrons look upon the efforts of the Master to enforce the laws as entirely unwarranted, an unjust interference with their rights, for no other purpose but to subject them to hardships unnecessarily, and to show authority. When the truth is, if he performs his duty he has no other recoures, he has no legislative authority and is bound by his obligation to enforce and obey the laws of the Order, and should he fail to do this, he is amenable to the appended law, no matter what opinion he may have, as to whether the law is right or wrong, just or unjust, he must take the law as it is, and use his best endeavors to have it respected and obeyed. This is the spirit that should govern and control all Patrons, and there should never be any controversy about these things to impair our influence, but we should purge our granges of all petty prejudices and untoward practices, which are bound to weaken an organization and result in demoralization and disaster. The founders of the Order have handed down to us a grand heritage, which has done, is still doing so muchfor its members, and will continue to bring many times greater benefits for the elevation, education and improvement of all.

While there seems to be a renewed activity in manufacturing and commercial circles, there has appeared as yet but little to encourage the farmer along these lines; prices on most farm products have ruled low, and small margins of profit remain after the cost of production has been taken out. The three branches of agriculture that at present hold out the best opportunity for remunerative returns, unfortunately we in Maine are not now in a position to take advantage of. Either dairying, beef stock, or sheep husbandry, would be profitable under present conditions, and the last two give promise of profitable returns for some time to come. The unfortunate feature of these branches is: We have neither the cattle nor sheep in sufficient numbers to get the benefits that are entirely possible had we the stock to furnish the demands of the market. The farmers of the State should be alert to these conditions and so diversify their farm work as to take advantage of them.

In these lines of progress our Board of Agriculture has continued to do grand work. We are glad to extend the full measure of praise they are so justly entitled to, and to give our unqualified assistance in still further extending the work, until all the agricultural interests of the State are developed to their best possible condition. As farmers, we are all directly concerned in this work, and we should foster and in every consistent manner increase the efficiency of this educational service.

We have, in the performance of duty, been called upon to do many, to us, disagreeable things. With the most profound regret we have had to interfere with the discipline of several granges either by suspension of a Master or the charters, and if in any instance we have exceeded our authority, we are alike amenable to the law, and, if it should be shown, would be filled with remorse in consequence.

GOOD ROADS.

We wish to emphasize the position taken last year in regard to road building. We are unalterably opposed to any such change as shall take from the farmers of the State one iota of the control which they have always had over the public highways which run through their land; in whose condition none are so intimately concerned as they themselves, and we are resolute in our opposition to any system which will increase the burden of their maintenance. *We*, too, want good roads; we would readily and gladly welcome better roads than we have, but insist that as the better roads are mainly a question of *more* dollars, the law which may provide for them shall also provide for *equal taxation, for that purpose, of all kinds of property.* State aid has in most instances (when tried) been coupled with conditions so onerous as to increase, instead of lessen, our burdens Therefore, we are opposed to the creation of bureaus or official boards of superintendence which will surely be costly, whether efficient or not. And we will strongly oppose any proposed law which does not provide for the equal taxation of *all forms* of property (except that exempt by the constitution) for road purposes.

At the last session of the legislature, two measures presented there were badly defeated by the combined efforts of our members. Try the bill asking for the creation of a State Highway Commission, and a resolve asking for an increase of the salaries of the justices of the Supreme Court, in amount $12,000. There is no question as to the influence of the grange in defeating both of these measures, and furnish another object lesson of what the agricultural people can do when working together for their common good. It is a good omen that our people are awakening to the fact that their welfare for the present and their hopes for the future are more entirely dependent upon a fair and economical administration of public affairs. They realize, as never before, that the enjoyments of a government in a land whose banner is the symbol of freedom, of equal rights to all citizens, of the same power of sovereignty to all with justice as the corner stone, must ever have the cordial and hearty individual support of every man and woman.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

We stand ready to foster and strengthen our public schools in every way possible, realizing that along all these lines there must be no backward steps, but that our schools must be improved at all times to keep pace with the changed conditions brought about by the evolution of time.

FIRE INSURANCE.

Of all attempts made in the line of financial benefit, our fire insurance companies have been the greatest success. They have steadily increased the volume of their business, furnishing a safe, cheap and reliable ministrant against loss. They have been and still are a great source of strength, in keeping our membership intact and are constantly bringing new members to our gates, and it is with pleasure we note their success.

TAXATION AND LEGISLATION.

The question of levying and collecting taxes is the one most vitally affecting the conditions and interests of our people, as, in the enactment and application of our tax laws the prosperity of our whole people very materially depends.

We are not aware that our industrial classes in any way object to contributing a fair share towards the public expense, if in the administration of the affairs of the public the funds are economically and honestly applied, so that *all property* shall contribute its *just* and *equal* proportion of the taxes; but there has grown up in our State a condition of unjust discrimination in regard to the valuation of property, and under existing circumstances farm property, the little homes of our mechanics, and wage-earners who have homes of their own, and who are trying to possess themselves of homes, are subjected to exorbitant, and unfair valuation of their property far above their cash value. While large individual ownerships and corporate wealth escape with only a nominal tax (or none at all), many farms in Maine will not sell for their assessed value, or for 60 per cent. of what they would have sold for twenty years ago, and yet their productive value is above what it was twenty years ago—the farms are more fertile, better cultivated, buildings more commodious and better stocked with all that tends to make the business of farming less laborious; with all the implements necessary to carry on the business economically and profitably. Rather a depressing picture for a man (who, by his industry and thrift, has done all these things) as he passes down the declivity of life to find that in spite of all his efforts he has lost ground and his property has become less valuable than when he started in life. This picture may seem to be a doleful one, but it is not our purpose to in any way belittle the calling of the farmers, save for the purpose of calling their attention to earnest, aggressive and combined effort in defence of their own rights and interests. The property of the farmer, being all exposed to view, never escapes the tax gatherers—what we mean is that *all* other property of whatever kind, shall pay its equal and just part—no more, no less.

We are satisfied from observation that many of our public officials are paid more for their services than they would be able to earn engaged in any business for themselves, and more than is paid by private interests for the same kind of service, but in addition our whole system is permeated with abuses arising from the *fee* system. The idea that the public should be obliged to pay men salaries in the employ of the public, and then when any part of the same public have occasion to do business with, or through, any department of State or county, to have to pay a fee which goes to the pocket of the official is wrong in principle, and I have no doubt abused to so large an extent, that if the people realized how much the public expense was increased they would at once take action to have a stop put to it. As we believe it to be one of the worst abuses of our public service, I most sincerely recommend that before the election of the next legislature steps be taken to have our legislative committee investigate thoroughly this question of fees in public service, and report at our next annual session. I would also recommend that we demand, and insist, that a revision of our tax laws be made so that all will bear its just proportion of the cost of government.

I would further recommend that the revision of all fees and salaries, placing them on an equitable basis, be discussed, formulated and presented to the next legislature, backed by an earnest endeavor from all our membership.

It may be said that the laws governing the assessment of taxes are all right now if enforced. The weakest part of any law is failure to provide for its safe, sure and rigid enforcement, and especially is this true regarding laws which contemplate the collection of money from the citizens of a State for public purposes. It is a mockery upon the citizenship of the State to permit other than justice in such an important governmental matter. Statistics demonstrate that in 1850 the farmers owned substantially 56 per cent. of the total wealth of the country; in 1890 they owned less than 25 per cent.—a depreciation of above 50 per cent. in forty years. This in itself, perhaps, would not be significant if from the same source of information it was not shown that the farmers pay two-thirds of all the taxes, and it becomes apparent that as a matter of justice and self preservation, our laws be so amended that corporations, franchises, the wild lands of the State should all pay their part of the public burden. It will of course be said, the poor corporations are not able to pay, and that their sole purpose in doing business is to benefit the public; in answer to that I would say, no one is obliged to favor a corporation or invest his money in any manner unless he is willing to pay his part of the public expense.

TRUSTS.

The time has arrived when we should be more emphatic in words and acts in our opposition to greedy trusts and combinations.

They are enemies to the best interests of the people, and a sure menace to our form of government. Their sole object is forced gain to themselves, regardless of the wrongs they inflict upon fellowmen, and the misery they leave in their wake.

We are told that all such combinations are legitimate and cannot be interfered with, in so far as capital is used in established lines of trade. This is true, but when enormous capital is combined in one corporation for the purpose of restricting production, controlling markets, and prohibiting competition, thereby making it impossible for the man of limited capital to do business, we believe the rights of the many are greater than the few, and that it is entirely within the province of the whole people to place such restrictions upon these great combines as will protect all alike. The importance of this question cannot be magnified, and it is a bright promise for the future that the people in all parts of this country are becoming aroused to the necessity of action to prevent these giant corporations from oppressing or destroying any of the great industries of the nation. The National Grange at its last session held in Springfield, Ohio, placed itself squarely on record in no uncertain way upon this great question, and I would most earnestly recommend that each Patron give a careful perusal, and study of the address of Worthy Master Jones; also the report of the Special Committee on Trusts at the session of the National Grange. It has been decided by the courts that the formation of trusts for monopoly purposes is illegal, in this language: "The American Glucose Company and the other persons whose names appear in the record, created and entered into a trust or combination, with themselves and with one or more of the five corporations other than the American Glucose Company, who conveyed their plants to the Glucose Sugar Refining Company, to regulate and fix the price of glucose and grape sugar, and their products, and by-products. These parties under the law were guilty of a conspiracy to defraud. This is the decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois, which held the transfer of property for above purposes illegal, and the case is remanded to the lower courts with instructions to set aside the deed of transfer, and all contracts conveying the property of the American Glucose Company to the Glucose Sugar Refining Co." This is the first time in the history of the country that the courts have been called upon to pass upon the legality of trusts as they are now formed, and the opinion affects trusts all over the country. I note this decision to show that it is held that the courts have jurisdiction, and never can, or should, the created become greater than the creator. Yet there is an urgent need of activity to prevent the trusts getting so firmly established that it will take a mighty effort to break their hold; the great lever with which all these things are done is the indifference of the people, which must always be avoided as a source of danger in a republican form of government. With proper effort expended along the line of public policy, with all that pertains to the agricultural interests of our state in obtaining equal rights and equal privileges under the law the farmers of Maine need not and do not ask any special favors, for they are intelligent enough to successfully hold their own in the management of their private business.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Convened in 33rd annual session in the city of Springfield, Ohio, Nov. 15th, with a representation from 26 States. Great attention was paid to the grange, as a body, by the citizens of the State. As the Ohio State Grange held its annual session in the city beginning Nov. 10th, and closed the 15th, an opportunity was given for a meeting of many Patrons of the Buckeye State. Governor Bushnell of Ohio in conjunction with the Mayor of Springfield, and the Commercial Club, gave a reception to the visiting Patrons in City Hall, Thursday evening, Nov. 16, where many of the prominent people of the city were present. To the Commercial Club the National Grange is under especial obligations for its untiring efforts in catering to the enjoyment of the visiting Patrons of the 17th; they gave all visiting Patrons a free excursion to the capital city, Columbus, where they were entertained by the faculty of the State Agricultural College, and a profitable and enjoyable day was passed. The following Monday the club gave a banquet to the National Grange in City Hall, which was highly enjoyed by all participants. Much interest was manifested in this session because of its being the election year when all the officers of the National Grange were elected except Bro. Messer of the Executive Committee, whose term expires next year. Worthy Master Jones was given the compliment of a unanimous re-election which he so richly deserved, and the Order is to be congratulated upon having him at the head for another term at least. Bro. Jones has demonstrated his fitness for the high and responsible position, and it is safe to say in point of ability he is the peer of any who have preceded him in the Chair. The State of Maine was recognized and its representation highly honored by being elected Overseer of the National Grange. This session of the National Grange was marked by the good fellowship which at all times prevailed, and the earnestnes of its work.

The following recommendations came down from the National Grange from the Worthy Master's address, for your attention and action. I trust they will receive at your hands the careful consideration their importance demands. Never has there been a time when the grange was in a position to exert such an influence for good as at present, by manifesting live, energetic interest, upon these great economical questions, which will have a restraining influence upon corporate greed. The National Grange asks our assistance along the following lines:

1st. Free delivery of mail in the rural districts, and that the service be placed upon the same basis as the delivery of mail in the cities, and that the appropriations therefor, be commensurate with the benefits and demands for the service. We believe with a lively interest through this organization we shall get a largely increased appropriation for this purpose. "Postmaster General Smith" in his annual report recommends an extension of this service, which coupled with effort on the part of the agricultural people, will ensure an extension, but eternal vigilance must be the watchword all along the line.

2d. Providing for postal Savings Banks.

3d. Submitting an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of U. S. Senators by direct vote of tht people.

4th. An anti-trust law, and providing for State inspection of corporations.

5th. Equalizing taxation so that all property will bear its just proportion of the cost of government.

6th. The passage of a Pure Food law.

7th. Providing a State Commission whose duty and power it shall be to fix maximum freight and passenger rates on all railways subject to their jurisdiction.

8th. The revision of all fees and salaries, placing them on an equitable basis.

You are also to vote on the following constitutional amendment:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

Resolved, That Article II. Section 4, of the Constitution be amended by striking out the words "two years" and inseating in lieu thereof "three years", one to be elected each year: Provided, That at the election in 1901 one member shall be elected for one year and one member for three years.

That Article II. Section 4, be amended by inserting after the word "years" in line three, "Such member of said committee as shall have management of the funds of the National Grange shall give bond in the sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000) each, said bond to be approved by the other members of the committee."

DEPUTY WORK.

More than ever I am confirmed in the opinion that by a revision of our deputy system we could get more satisfactory returns. As the result of the work of county deputies this year we have but three out of fourteen new and reorganized granges; ten of these granges were instituted by State Deputy Ansel Holway, who has been acting under orders and has done yeomen service in the grange field, and I am satisfied it would have been entirely practicable to have increased our membership 4,000 the past year if we could have used the money paid out to county deputies for work that does not on the whole materialize in good results. No money should be used along channels that do not furnish returns.

The Worthy State Lecturer has been active and faithful in the discharge of his duties, and has been wonderfully successful in the work, and I congratulate the State Grange in having so faithful and efficient an officer to fill this important office. From all over the State comes words of commendation for his work, and I, too, am glad to pay tribute to one so deserving.

While we have made no marked advance in the line of co-operative buying and selling, yet I think the Patrons of the State, taken as a whole have a more intelligent idea of the practicability of the great benefits possible by continued effort. In the sale of the grange fertilizers there is less opposition from the "local" grange agent than formerly, and I believe it to be entirely practicable, and hope to see the time when a system of direct trade will be organized and successfully operated between States through the State organizations, so that the Patrons of one State can buy the products of Patrons of another, through a bureau of information between States. What we need is good business ability and the exercise of the same confidence in each other that it holds among all business men in the commercial world.

The Executive Committee have at all times been ready and anxious to advance the interests, and extend the influence of the Order, and it is a pleasure to say that our relations have at all times been the most friendly and harmonious.

We met with a great loss in the death of Bro. B. F. Briggs, a man of sound business judgment, a genial companion, and a Worthy Patron. By his death the Order has lost one of its most able and earnest Patrons. I recommend that a time be set aside during this session for memorial services in commemoration of his death.

THE PRESS.

This is the great educator of the times, a most potent factor in advancing reforms along all lines of social and business progress and it is to be hoped that the farmers will show their appreciation of the efforts of all papers who deal fairly with our agricultural interests. In no other way can the farmers be so greatly benefited as through the press, and it is as essential as our schools and our churches, and should always be frequent visitors in every farm home. The press is the medium through which leading thoughts are communicated to the people, and no matter how worthy the cause, to serve its best purposes the printed page must act a prominent part. So it is in grange work. The Order would sacrifice much of its influence if we had no regular and frequent means of communication. The papers of the State have generally been ready and anxious to open their columns for grange news; but we are under especial obligations to the Maine Farmer, The Kennebec Journal, The Bath Enterprise, The Lewiston Journal, The Bangor Commercial, The Bangor Whig and Courier, the Bangor Daily News, and Turf, Farm and Home.

POMONA GRANGES.

Our Pomona Granges have been the principal source through which field meetings have been held during the year, and have been of untold value to the order.

Of all the promoters for good and progressive grange work in a county, and of all the different aids that may be used to keep the grange in a county up to good health and strength, a well managed Pomona stands in the lead. The Pomona Grange should be the origin of grange thought and work. It should study to administer to the wants of every local grange in the county, and should not allow a grange in its jurisdiction to get low in interest, but encourage and assist the weak ones in every way possible. This is the true province of Pomona, and should not be lost sight of. It should set the example of good work by being properly equipped for the perfect rendition of its degree, that the beautiful lessons may be fully understood

THE SUBORDINATE GRANGES

Are many of them doing very fine work, and some are rendering the lessons of the subordinate degrees in a most excellent manner; a careful rendition of the ritualistic work leads to better work all along the line of grange endeavor, and leads to closer relations between Subordinate, County, State and National Granges, which is in the line of true progress, and must be to insure the highest order of success. The subordinate grange is the basic stone upon which the whole superstructure rests, and should be fostered and stengthened in every consisteut way; yet no subordinate grange will ever succeed that depends upon outside aid entirely for its existence. The first requisite is the element of self development, the necessity of being self-sustaining; and for this to be possible there must be a close observance of the Organic Laws of the Order. Members are to remember that they are units of the great whole, subservient to the will of a majority; and there must be a close study of our declaration of purposes, each one constantly wosking to attain the conditions so clearly set forth therein. Then we will realize the full measure of benefit made possible through the grandest organization of modern times. Like many other organizations it has its trials, its triumphs, and its reverses, yet there should be no abatement in effort to accomplish the high mission which it was intended to fulfill. Its chiefest and most dangerous enemies are those who would seek admission to its conrts to prevent its purpose, palzy its zeai, and spread doubt and distrust among its most ardent and devoted friends. But these evil influences will always be overcome by unaltering faith in the justice of our cause, the purity of our purposes, and the exalted character of the mission of the grange among men. Though it may suffer from temporary turbulence and misdirected effort, or its influence become the covsted object of a selfish scheming ambition, yet there are the enduring elements of safety and preservation in the hearts of its thousands of devoted friends who honor its teachings, and will perpetrate the full exercise of its principles, precepts and intentions, to a glorious and successful future. No organization can claim a higher position of unselfish devotion to the welfare, prosperity, and happiness of the human race. In whatever sphere of life they may be called to act, the grange has never asked for any consideration of justice, equity or equality that is inconsistent with the highest deal of citizenship to demand, or the loftiest purpose and duty of a State or National government to bestow. It can be truthfully said of members of Order of Patrons of Husbandry that they have never asked a favor, a blessing, or a benefit, they were not willing and anxious others should share and enjoy equally with themselves. Brothers, let us take good care that this grand organization is preserved and perpetuated in all its entirety.

CONCLUSION.

With the present session the term of the officers of State Grange expire. The death of Bro. Briggs makes a vacancy, and you will need to elect three members of the Executive Committee. The terms of Bros. Bearce and Bowen expire with this session. In closing my term as Master and returning to you the emblem of authority with which you so highly honored me, I wish to express my most grateful thanks. No one realizes more fully than I, in how many ways I am deficient in the requisites necessary for a proper administration of the high, honorable and responsible position of Master of the Maine State Grange. It was with doubt and distrust of my abilities that I assumed the duties. As it is enobling and elevating to the person engaged in a good cause, I have been benefited and strengthened and my most earnest hopes are that through my efforts the Order have born some lasting fruits. All through my term I have been embarassed by the knowledge that those who preceded me in the had all been gifted public speakers—an accomplishment my strickly business training had not fitted me to possess—and *this* knowledge has created a diffidence. I could not overcome; nevertheless I have devoted a great deal of time in my endeavors to perform the work assigned me. Sickness and death at home have changed my plans during the year, and this must be my explanation for failure to keep appointments in several instances. The work of the office is rapidly increasing as the years go on. I have written above one thousand Grange letters in 1899, and have endeavored to perform the work as best I could. That I could not do more and better work has been my greatest regret. For the kindness and forbearance shown me during the term I am most profoundly grateful to the Patrons all over the State. The pleasure I have enjoyed in my work through association with the grand men and women of our State, the lasting friendships I have made, which I trust will continue as long as I shall live, will ever be prized among my richest treasures.

Now, brothers and sisters, the work of the session is before you. The responsibitits placed unpon you as the representatives of the State Grange are great, and I trust you will give the most serious consideration to the duties before you in devising such measures as may tend io build up and perpetuate our noble and beneficent Order. In all your deliberations I trust you will exercise the spirit of toleration to those who may differ from you, that the spirit of fairness will characterize your work, and that good will and harmony will prevail. Again thanking you for the honors I have received at your hands, I am,

Fraternally,

O. GARDNER, *Master.*

REPORT OF THE LECTURER TO THE MAINE STATE GRANGE.

For your humble servant to report to this large and interesting body cannot be otherwise than pleasing to himself, since there is so much that is encouraging, inspiring and full of hope.

We are accustomed to hear it said that the Order is in excellent condition, but the past year has been a most remarkable one. Others will give exact figures of increase, but figures do not report the most important features in the growth of the Maine State Grange. New granges have been organized, some old ones revived and great numbers added in nearly all parts of the State. But a more important fact than mere numbers is the condition of the granges, the level upon which they have climbed.

We find a large proportion of them in most parts of the State doing excellent work, fully alive to the grander and nobler principles upon which the organization was founded. More granges to-day than in any previous year realize the importance of using a larger part of the time in educational and uplifting features than depending upon what is only amusing. We have much to learn in this respect, but most Patrons are excellent students and the progress is very satisfactory. We must all realize that we should be seeking progress all the way from the cradle to the grave. It is not doing well that makes people happy; it is doing better.

It is inspiring indeed to read the history of the early Patrons of Husbandry and see how much faith, hope and courage they put into the organization of this Order.

Had not Kelly's faith and courage been large enough and broad enough to reach from earth to heaven we should never have heard of the Patrons of Husbandry. Kelly seemed to see the end from the beginning and realize that the Order would become immensely strong and be a wonderful help to the farmers in many ways and no discouragements, though they rose up sometimes mountain high, could cause him to doubt or question for a moment the ultimate success of the grange. At one time debts were accumulating and payment became very urgent. Kelly owned ten city lots where he had made an investment for the benefit of his children. He gave the grange full liberty to raise all they could by mortgage on these lots and pay off the more important debts. His wife fully consented as neither doubted for a moment that success would crown their efforts.

Another incident which showed something of the grand spirit of those noble men to whom we owe so much was when Kelly had been sent out by the National grange to enlarge the Order. At the second place he visited he failed to organize a grange and went to see his friend, M. F. McDowell of Wayne, N. Y., whom he had previously met in Washington. A hard snow storm came on and McDowell took care of and carefully entertained Kelly for three days when the storm had sufficiently subsided for him to go on. At the departure McDowell gave Kelly much encouragement and showed his faith in his words by also giving him $50 in money to help him on his way. Glimpses like these show a little something of the heroic character of those who labored so untiringly to establish the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

I do not think that to any other one man is due anything like the amount of praise for establishing our Order that we owe O. H. Kelly. It seems to me that his efforts were somewhat of a parallel to those of Cyrus W. Field in laying the Atlantic cable. As we read the morning paper and scan the war news from Africa, we hardly think of the great change wrought in the civilized world by the efforts of Cyrus W. Field. After making a large fortune and retiring from business, his attention was called to shortening the time of communication with Europe, and he gave twelve years of incessant labor, staked every cent of his fortune, crossed the ocean more than thirty times before he was able to send the following dispatch to New York: "Thank God, the cable is laid, and is in perfect working order."

How much we need, in every grange of the country, zealous, earnest, capable men and women who are enabled to see what is best and noblest in life, and are always ready to help the grange to a higher level. If Kelly, thirty years ago, could see the need of united effort among the farmers of the nation, it must be ten times more apparent now to every Patron of Husbandry.

When we think of the good the granges might do, the thought becomes overwhelming. There is so much need, upon every hand, of united thought and united action to improve the various conditions of the rural districts. We should put forth every effort to come, in thought and action, nearer together, and by increasing confidence in each other, be able to buy together, sell together, and thus make the considerable increase in the profits of the farm.

How much there is in the social features of the grange to help us to realize that life is really worth living. The great advantages of the social features are too well understood to need further comment here, but to the educational features we cannot give too much thought. The time when successful farmers could neglect the instruction of the Experimental Stations, the Board of Agriculture and the agricultural papers have gone by.

There are so many improved methods which need in so many cases to be forced upon the attention of the farmer that the grange is an absolute necessity to supplement the work of these other agencies.

How many farmers there are in the State who seem to be satisfied with the old brindle cow and never take the pains to inform themselves of what the individuals of the herd are producing? How many farmers there are in the State who should be making twice, thrice or four times as much use of clover? How many there are in the State that have given no thought to the silo and raise very little of the king of crops on the Maine farm? How many farmers are expending much money every year for commercial fertilizers and are careless or indifferent in regard to the amount that might be manufactured and saved at the barn? How many there are that should produce much more of the cattle feed upon the farm at home and pay much less to the western producer? The Experimental Stations procure an immense amount of information to help the profits of the farm, but this can do the farmers no good until this information is brought home to them in such a way as to make a lasting impression upon their minds.

The Farmers' Institutes can meet in but a few neighborhoods of each county and consequently reach at the best but a small part of the farmers and one of the strangest things of all, is the fact that our ablest and best agricultural papers do not find their way into every farmer's home.

The necessity for the grange to take up and discuss these live questions until every farmer becomes sufficiently interested to study and investigate for himself, is self-evident.

There is a grand field here open to the grange and the possibilities of improvement are beyond comprehension. It is not only the questions of properly conducting the farm that interest us but all questions affecting the people and the State as well. We believe that there are some unjust burdens bearing upon the farmer that should be removed, that there is some unjust legislation that should be repealed, that the farmers of the past have not had the influence in the legislature to which they are properly entitled. But how are these remedies to be accomplished? Allow me to suggest that if we accomplish anything at all we have got to be united. We never can be united upon a multitude of articles. We must adopt one, two, or three—the less the better—upon which after a good deal of study, thought and discussion, we can present a united front and the battle is won.

The subject of taxation is bound to come before the granges, and the great danger is that questions in reference to this subject will be decided without proper consideration, and carry with the decision very little weight or none at all. The only object of passing resolutions of this kind is with the hope that it may in some way and in some time have some influence upon legislation. But a resolution passed by a small majority can have no influence whatever.

If we call the attention of an intelligent legislator to a resolution passed by a grange, after noticing its contents, his first inquiry would be, how large a majority of your grange desire this and when learning that the majority is small and not overwhelming he cannot afford to give it further notice. How often it is repeated that in union there is strength, but it could be repeated nowhere with more force than in the grange.

Let us give all the thought and study to these great questions that we can, selecting only what we can unite upon and then knowing we are right, go ahead.

Fraternally,

ELIJAH COOK, *Lecturer Maine State Grange.*

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

The report of the Secretary of Maine State Grange shows that from Oct. 1, 1898, to Sept. 30, 1899, 14 granges have been organized and re-organized as follows:

Granite Grange, No. 14, Pownal, re-organized Jan. 26, '99, by State Deputy Ansel Holway, with 24 charter members.

Detroit Grange, No. 347, organized Apr. 3, by A. Holway, 32 charter members.

Bridgton, No. 116, re-organized Apr. 5, by A. Holway, with 20 charter members.

N. Augusta, No. 348, Apr. 6, by County Deputy C. W. Crowell, 34 charter members.

Cambridge, No. 349, organized Apr. 13, by A. Holway, 29 charter members.

Standish, No. 122, re-organized Apr. 22, by A. Holway, 31 charter members.

Wessaweskeag, No. 350, organized May 4, by Deputy R. S. Thorndike, 36 charter members.

Falmouth, No. 29, re-organized May 8, by A. Holway, 74 charter members.

Dirigo Grange, No. 13, reorganized June 8, by A. Holway, 23 charter members.

Atkinson, No. 351, organized June 10, by, Deputy W. R. Coburn, 34 charter members.

Ashland, No. 247. re-organized July 8, by Deputy C. Hayford, 25 charter members.

Willow Brook, No. 352, organized Sept. 12, by Deputy L. O. Straw, 28 charter members.

Lebanon, No. 353, organized Sept. 16, by L. O. Straw, 30 charter members.

Freetown, No. 191, re-organized Sept. 30, by A. Holway, 16 charter members.

Since Sept. 30, '99, there have been organized Plymouth, No. 354, by A. Holway, and Pleiades, No. 355, by Deputy J. M. Valentine.

THE MEMBERSHIP AS SHOWN BY COUNTIES IS AS FOLLOWS:

County.	Number of Granges.	Number of Members.	Gain or Loss for the Year.	
Androscoggin,	17	3349	gain	217
Aroostook,	20	2030	gain	296
Cumberland,	20	978	gain	194
Franklin,	11	823	gain	47
Hancock,	12	633	loss	65
Kennebec,	22	2873	gain	254
Knox,	11	628	loss	20
Lincoln,	5	164	loss	12
Oxford,	18	1751	loss	75
Penobscot,	30	2780	gain	181
Piscataquis,	11	889	gain	58
Sagadahoc,	10	878	gain	43
Somerset,	21	2682	gain	342
Waldo,	27	2520	loss	115
Washington,	8	400	gain	18
York,	16	934	gain	85
	259	24,312	Net gain	1735

Membership of 200 or more September 30:

Turner, No. 23	525	Members.
Excelsior, No. 5	364	"
Houlton, No. 16	360	"
Skowhegan, No. 208	355	"
Dexter, No. 155	302	"
Sidney, No. 194	259	"
Auburn, No. 4	253	"
Androscoggin, No. 8	253	"
Franklin, No. 124	231	"
Lewiston, No. 2	227	"
Canaan, No. 239	226	"
Norland, No. 319	225	"
Caribou, No. 138	223	"
Garland, No. 76	222	"
Monmouth, No. 39	220	"
Cascade, No. 92	216	"
Canton, No. 110	215	"
Granite, No. 192	211	"
Palmyra, No. 316	209	"
Clinton, No. 287	206	"
Wales, No. 40	204	"
Independent, No. 77	201	"

FINANCIAL REPORT.

The receipts at the Secretary's office for the fiscal year have been as follows:

Fees and dues from subordinate granges	$4,646.66
Sale of supplies	250.50
Sixth degree fees	123.00
Total	$5,020.16

The same has been paid the Worthy Treasurer.

The Worthy Secretary wishes to thank the members of the Order for the uniform courtesy shown him during his term of office.

Fraternally submitted,

E. H. LIBBY, *Secretary Maine State Grange.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TAXATION AND LEGISLATION.

Among the many important questions now agitating the public mind, those of taxation and legislation surely take precedence. Conscious of grave inequalities and great injustice, the Maine State Grange early began the discussion of these questions only to find as years passed that the inequalities were becoming more pronounced and the injustice more marked. Legislation which has become so important a factor has all the while been drifting away from that recognition of justice which is a part of the organic law of the State, that "all taxes upon real and personal estate shall be apportioned and assessed equally according to the just value thereof," until practically legal exemption has been reached by some of the later incorporated bodies receiving charters at the hands of the legislature, while municipalities have been equally free in voting low valuations to manufacturing corporations or exempting entirely for a longer or shorter term of years. All the while state, county and municipal expenses have steadily increased and naturally and inevitably the sum total of the tax falling upon the exposed property of the State not exempt or provided for by legislation has multiplied until the sober minded but ever loyal great middle class stands to-day to ask, demand, and insist upon a re-adjustment, a repeal of certain laws and the enactment of measures which will lead to a more just and equitable valuation of all forms of property and an approach to more uniform rates of taxation.

Upon the broad platform of equity this State Grange and the farmers of Maine have all the while planted themselves, asking no exemptions for their property and no relief save that coming from equalization of values over all classes of property.

In 1890 the State tax of two and one-quarter mills yielded $531,697.90, and in 1899 this had been increased to $851,741.90, at the rate of two and three-quarter mills. Year by year the State Board of Assessors, created to adjust and equalize as far as possible, have felt impelled to increase the valuation of towns and cities in order to provide sufficient revenue for State appropriations and expenditures within the limit set by the legislature providing for the same and in fixing the State tax.

Recognizing the situation, this Board has this year reduced the valuation on something like two hundred of the smaller, purely agricultural towns, thereby affording what relief was in their power. At the present time we have in this State 9,152,863 acres of wild land, exclusive of public lots, valued by the assessors at practically $1.78 per acre, the total being $16,238,828.00 and the tax $44,656.77. As this class of property becomes more valuable, the demand is just that it contribute a larger portion of the State tax. If the valuation of the whole were placed at the price realized or that for which large tracts have been offered during the past few months, $2.00 per acre, the increase would be but slight, and to attempt to value at higher rate than selling price would hardly be recognized as sound practice, therefore the fact must be admitted that legislation is necessary to change existing laws which established the rate of and method of taxation for these wild lands when their value was but a fraction of present worth.

Legislation has also fixed the rate of taxation and system of valuation for the railroads of the State, leaving towns and cities free to tax, at local rates, the property in their limits and all bonds held by individual residents. During the discussion of the question of railroad taxation in the last legislature, one of the directors of the leading road in Maine pledged the coöperation of his road in seeking an equitable readjustment and method of taxing this and all classes of property, that more just legislation might be secured.

The electric roads, so rapidly increasing in all parts of Maine and yielding so large a per cent. of profit to stock and bond holders, have also a system of taxation peculiar to themselves, established by legislation and to be modified or corrected only through the same source.

Beyond these classes of property where the rate and system of taxation is established by legislation, there will be found in nearly every locality, larger or smaller manufacturing interests which are either exempt or have a low valuation by consent of the municipalities. Here the individual tax payer becomes a party to the act and the remedy is to be found at the legal town meeting.

Another fact to which attention must again be directed because of the lesson involved, is that while the average rate of taxation in Maine this year is two and two-tenths cents, the State tax is two and three-quarter mills, or twelve and one-half per cent. of the whole. To express the same thonght in another form, the average town and county tax is $19.75 per thousand valuation and the State tax $2.77. This rate is highest in Aroostook and Washington, because of aid voted the railroads. It must therefore be the imperative duty of every voter to scrutinize more closely than ever the itemized expenditures of his town and county and to insist upon greater economy in every department, while demanding that the expenditures of the State be reduced and the multiplication of departments and increase of clerical force checked. Recognizing the fact that resolutions have no specific weight, petitions but slight value, and reports are of little avail in securing reform, your committee would emphasize the necessity of this body taking such specific action before its sessions close that, during the coming year, the whole subject may be thoroughly compassed, facts and figures in detail gathered to be presented at its next session and a policy of action outlined, which, if approved, may be made the basis of aggressive action before the legislature of 1901.

With this object in view, your committee urge the selection of a legislative and taxation committee to be composed of those not now in public office or possible candidates for legislative positions in the next legislature, in order that they may be free to act unbiased by party influence. Believing, also, that it is wisest to concentrate discussion upon a few specific points, that public sentiment may be aroused and the will of the people clearly expressed thereon, your committee would urge the following measures.

1st. The abolishment of the Governor's Council.

2d. The creation of the office of State Auditor and election of an officer whose duty it shall be to critically examine the itemized accounts presented.

3d. The publishing yearly of the itemized account of each and every State department.

4th. The repeal of all laws establishing fees, save those only for serving legal processes and the substitution of fixed salaries for all State, county and municipal officers.

5th. The passage of a law requiring local assessors to publish yearly the personal property list within thirty days after the inventory of the same is completed.

6th. The absolute checking of all legislation looking to appropriations for more than two years time, thereby covering only the life of the legislature and leaving each legislature free to act for the best interests of the State and responsible for every dollar appropriated.

7th. The re-adjustment of the systems of taxation prevailing in the State, touching real and personal property, railroads, steam and electric, express companies, wild lands, Pullman cars, electric light and heat companies, water companies and all other classes of property in accordance with the market value of same and in harmony with that eternal principle of justice which is at the foundation of good government.

We urge these measures upon your attention for deliberate discussion during the coming year: 1st, because of the slight service and heavy expense attending the Governor's Council; 2d, the great saving sure to follow the election of a State Auditor; 3d, the rights of the public to all the facts governing State expenditures; 4th, the evil of the present fee system which insures large compensation to State and county officials in addition to liberal salaries, laying additional burdens on tax payers; 5th, the certainty that the publication of the personal property list would lead to the uncovering of property now hidden; 6th, putting a stop to the pernicious policy of long-term appropriations; 7th, the necessity for a readjustment of the system of taxation of property, recognized by all classes, in order that a greater degree of justice may prevail, the rights of the individual tax payer be recognized and the prosperity of the entire state enhanced.

G. M. TWITCHELL,
Z. A GILBERT,
A. S. FARNSWORTH,
J. A. ROBERTS,
M. L. MERRILL,
L. W. DYER,
Committee on Taxation and Legislation.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION.

So much has been said and written upon the subject of coöperation that the most that can be done in this report will be to refresh the memory of those present with what has been said so many times in the past.

The experience of our people in the past has clearly shown that the best and most profitable results have been obtained where coöperation of man with man has been practiced.

It is true in a sense that man must be self-reliant, strong in his convictions of right and wrong, and firm in the carrying out of any line of work which, after careful thought, he decides to be right and for his best interests.

The lessons to be learned in life are manifold. And not the most insignificant of these are to *know* when and how to stand by ourselves, and carry forward to successful fruition any line of work or business we may enter into. Another, as important lesson, we *must* learn is to know when and how to coöperate with our brotherman to obtain better results than can be done when working alone. There is no class of people on earth who might so successfully coöperate in buying, in selling, in work, in thought, in nearly *all* that tends to better our condition and make us a wealthier, more enlightened people, than the farmer.

The one great hindrance in the past to the accomplishing of any desired object by coöperation has been our lack of confidence in each other; a fear that our neighbor will obtain a larger share of the dollar that we are striving for than we do.

A case in point, was the failure of the farmers in coöperating together to obtain an advance in price from packers of sweet corn. Had there been no fear nor distrust in the minds of some that the books would be filled and they left out, the ranks would not have been broken and better prices would have been obtained for our product.

It is only by having confidence in each other and going forward, shoulder to shoulder, with as unselfish a determination to better the condition of our brother, as our own, that we can successfully coöperate for an advancement in any direction. Self-seeking greed and covetousness must be left out of the account. A desire to do good whenever opportunity offers, for the uplifting and upbuilding of our fellow-man should and *must* prevail. These characteristics are in us though dormant in many cases from long disuse.

The farmers are now and have been the acknowledged bone and sinew of the land; the class upon whom the Nation can surely call in time of peril; the class who, though perhaps slow to accept or entertain new ideas, yet when thoroughly convinced that certain things or lines of action are *right* will press forward with a fidelity of purpose that knows no defeat.

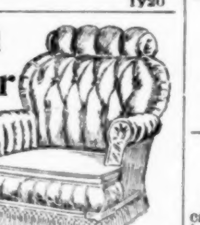
Quoting from a former report, I would say that "The grange, as an organization, through the aid given by its social and literary work, its exchange and comparison of ideas, and the feeling of respect, friendly sympathy and brotherhood, which is *ever* characteristic of a successful and united grange, makes coöperation in all its lines possible."

Formerly the primary object of coöperation in the grange was from a pecuniary or financial standpoint only. This, to a certain extent, has been broadened out and changed, as we believe, for the better. All good Patrons are, or should be, working together for better educators, better schools, a purer and more elevating social life, a more equal taxation and many other objects that broaden the mind and stimulate into activity all our energies for the bettering of the condition of mankind in general.

Our coöperation in grange work should be perfect. In this way only can we attain to the highest standard of usefulness. Each member of our subordinate granges should feel a personal responsibility for the good of the Order, and especially of *his* grange, and be ready at any and all times to act in harmony with his brothers and sisters, to upbuild and enlighten mankind.

Coöperation should exist among all good Patrons in assisting to suppress and put down all efforts to evade and render null our organic laws. We should bear in mind that from the time we commence to transgress we can date the beginning of our downfall! We do, or should, understand the sacredness of the obligation we have taken. Let every member of the Order who has the least respect for himself, keep that obligation inviolate.

C. S. STETSON, *Chairman.*



KENNEBEC COUNTY.. *In Probate Court at Augusta, in vacation, December 5, 1899.*

DELIA J. GREELEY, Administratrix on the estate of CHARLES P. GREELEY, late of Readfield, in said county, deceased, having presented her first account of administration for allowance:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given three weeks successively, prior to the fourth Monday of December inst, in the Maine Farmer, a newspaper printed in Augusta, that all persons interested may attend at a Court of Probate, then to be holden at Augusta, and show cause, if any, why the same should not be allowed.
G. T. STEVENS, *Judge.*
Attest: W. A. NEWCOMB. *Register.* 6

KENNEBEC COUNTY... *In Probate Court at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of November, 1899.*

On petition for the appointment of E. F. YEATON of Belgrade as administrator of the estate of JANE B. MOSHER, late of said Belgrade, deceased:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given three weeks successively, in the Maine Farmer, printed in Augusta, in said County, that all persons interested may attend at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of December next, and show cause, if any, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.
G. T. STEVENS, *Judge.*
Attest: W. A. NEWCOMB, *Register.* 6

KENNEBEC COUNTY... *In Probate Court at Augusta, in vacation, December 5, 1899.*

A CERTAIN INSTRUMENT, purporting to be the last will and testament of ELMIRA STEVENS, late of Windsor, in said county, deceased, having been presented for probate:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given three weeks successively, prior to the fourth Monday of December inst., in the Maine Farmer, a newspaper printed in Augusta that all persons interested may attend at a Court of Probate, then to be holden at Augusta, and show cause, if any, why the said instrument should not be proved, approved and allowed as the last will and testament of the said deceased.
G. T. STEVENS, *Judge.*
Attest: W. A. NEWCOMB, *Register.* 6

KENNEBEC COUNTY... *In Probate Court at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of November, 1899.*

E. H. MARTIN, Administrator on the estate of WILLIAM P. MARTIN, late of Litchfield, in said county, deceased, having petitioned for license to sell the following real estate of said deceased, for the payment of debts, etc., viz.: About three-fourths of an acre of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Litchfield on the west side of the road leading from Robinson's Corner, so called, to Hatch's Corner, so called.

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given three weeks successively prior to the fourth Monday of December next, in the *Maine Farmer*, a newspaper printed in Augusta, that all persons interested may attend at a Court of Probate then to be holden at Augusta, and show cause, if any, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.
G. T. STEVENS, *Judge.*
Attest: W. A. NEWCOMB, *Register.* 6

KENNEBEC COUNTY... *In Probate Court at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of November 1899.*

A CERTAIN INSTRUMENT, purporting to be the last will and testament of HATTIE C. SYKES, late of Augusta, in said county, deceased, having been presented for probate:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given three weeks successively prior to the fourth Monday of December, next, in the Maine Farmer, a newspaper printed in Augusta, that all persons interested may attend at a Court of Probate then to be holden at Augusta, and show cause, if any, why the said instrument should not be proved, approved and allowed as the last will and testament of the said deceased.
G. T. STEVENS, *Judge.*
Attest: W. A. NEWCOMB, *Register.* 6

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. The subscriber hereby gives notice that he has been duly appointed Executor of the will of JANE F. JUDD, late of Augusta, in the county of Kennebec, deceased, and given bonds as the law directs. All persons having demands against the estate of said deceased are desired to present the same for settlement, and all indebted thereto are requested to make payment immediately.
Nov. 27, 1899. 6 LENDALL TITCOMB.

EXECUTRIX'S NOTICE. The subscriber hereby gives notice that she has been duly appointed Executrix of the will of FREEMAN BARKER, late of Augusta, in the county of Kennebec, deceased, and given bonds as the law directs. All persons having demands against the estate of said deceased are desired to present the same for settlement, and all indebted thereto are requested to make payment immediately.
Nov. 27, 1899. 6 LILLA H STAPLES.

ADMINISTRATRIX'S NOTICE. The subscriber hereby gives notice that she has been duly appointed Administratrix on the estate of RACHEL OWEN, late of Augusta, in the County of Kennebec, deceased, and given bonds as the law directs. All persons having demands against the estate of said deceased are desired to present the same for settlement, and all indebted thereto are requested to make payment immediately.
Nov. 27, 1899. HANNAH N. BRIDGE. 6

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. The subscriber hereby gives notice that he has been duly appointed Administrator, on the estate of CHARLES E. MERRILL, late of Sidney, in the county of Kennebec, deceased, and given bonds as the law directs. All persons having demands against the estate of said deceased are desired to present the same for settlement, and all indebted thereto are requested to make payment immediately.
Nov. 27, 1899. LENDALL TITCOMB. 6

Poultry.

England is calling for large shipments of poultry products to meet the demand there. This would insure much higher price here but for the fact that the South is sending North large quantities of stock in inferior condition which drags down the price of the whole.

The poorest and most unproductive of sandy soils are best for poultry, as the rains carry down the filth, and the soil being light, can be easily spaded or turned over. The sandy soils are also dry, and, therefore, such diseases as cholera in fowl or gapes in chickens are rather unusual, compared with the damage from such diseases on heavy, stiff land. Cheap, sandy lands can be put to excellent use in raising broilers, and if it is desired to grow crops on the land the droppings will gradually bring it to a certain degree of fertility.—*P. H. Jacobs, in American Gardening.*

CUT BONE.

Mr. Editor: Will you please inform me, through your paper (or otherwise), where to procure green cut bone for poultry? I fail to find it advertised in the *Farmer* and oblige. A. B. NOYES.

The animal meal and food advertised in the *Farmer* is valuable for poultry, but for green bone to be available one must have a chopping block and plenty of muscle or a bone mill. Many of the green bones can be broken by the axe or hatchet, and in a few minutes time daily, but if any quantity is needed, the bone mill is a necessity.

FOR FLESH AND PROLIFIC LAYING.

When selecting the male birds with a view to propagating flesh and prolific laying they should be moderately short legged, unless the hens are very low in stature and even then short legs should be preferred for compactness and growth of flesh.

Cockerels from a sire having long legs are apt to be stilted and do not put on flesh kindly. The one selected for breeding should have a broad, full and round breast in order to secure plumpness and compactness in flesh in the offspring.

The hens should have small, neat, smooth heads, well developed combs, bright eyes, nice tapering necks, long, deep bodies, with active movement, healthy and vigorous with a good constitution.

On the farm at least the fowl should be good foragers, as under the conditions in which they are usually kept, they must, during the growing season, at least, do considerable foraging for a living.

It is best to consider physical perfection above outward comeliness much as uniformity and beauty of plumage may be admired.

One objection too often waged against fancy poultry is that they are too delicate for good breeding and yet it does not follow that because a bird is thoroughbred it should have lost its constitutional vigor.

POINTS FOR BREEDERS.

Fine foods make fine fowl flesh.

Your hens will cost you from 75 cents to $1 a year apiece. Compute on that basis, and you can come to an approximate estimate of what you are making or losing on your hens.

Slow-growing feathers indicate hardy fowl.

Incubator-hatched chickens are free from lice, which is a great advantage to the fluffy little bodies.

Egg-laying hens need bulky food. Pullets need, or will stand, more fattening food.

Turn the table scraps over to the hens. They will convert them into fresh table supplies.

Fowl "eat feathers" in cold weather mainly because they can find nothing else to do. The eating of feathers may generally be stopped by giving the hens something to do, something to scratch over, to pick at and to take their attention.

Liver trouble in fowl is revealed in the yellow color of their droppings.

Don't place the nests of hens too high.

A slight spray of carbolic acid in a dust-bath will aid in freeing the fowl from lice.

Good laying hens are generally incessant scratchers. Indeed, generally speaking, the hen that does not scratch and pick and roll in dust almost constantly is no good.

BAY VIEW DUCK FARM.

Feeling sure that many readers of the *Farmer* will be interested in duck raising, as it is carried on, on the above farm, will briefly mention some of the sights I saw, and some of the statements made by Mr. Blanchard, the very genial foreman, who seems to take pleasure in showing visitors this extensive plant. The Messrs. French Bros., owners, reside in Boston and attend to the market end of the business, and the shipping of supplies, which, by the way, is no small item. Some seven acres of ground are given to this duckery, a considerable portion of which is roofed in. Thirty incubators are employed, which hold nearly 18,000 eggs, from which 18,200 ducklings were hatched this season. A brooder house 120 feet long heated by steam is where the ducklings are taken when 24 hours old. Four men are employed to feed and care for them. As many as 11,000 ducks of different ages filled their yards this season, at one time, to feed which, it took seventy bushels of meal, and large quantities of green food, meat scraps, and other grain each day. A carload, 15 tons, of Quaker oats, lasts less than one month. 1,100 breeding birds are now in yards. These will begin to lay about the first of February; then about the middle of March the incubators are started. At this season the eggs are less fertile, and only about 40 per cent. of eggs are hatched, while later in summer as high as 70 per cent. are hatched. The ducks are crowded along as fast as possible, and at 10 weeks old are dressed for market, when many of them reach the weight of 10 or 11 lbs. per pair; 1,500 lbs. of feathers were sold in 1898. Pickers are paid by the piece, 7c being the price, and old hands pick 35 to 40 per day. Twenty thousand is the ambition of its owners for 1900.

Sandy Point, Me. W. J. H.

NATURE'S FLOOR.

One of the most important things about a henhouse is the floor, and all things being considered, there is a very serious objection to Mother Earth for a floor. Some people tell us it is "nature's floor." However, as we all know, "nature's floor" is a clean floor, as fowl when wild in their native land roam far and wide, and the ground over which they go (nature's floor) does not become soiled and filthy, as an earth floor (a thousand times smaller than "nature's floor") is bound to become, unless a great amount of unnecessary hard work is given it. Of course it can be kept reasonably clean by taking out four inches or more of the dirt once or twice a month, and replacing with new; but as the droppings cannot be removed without so doing, we surmise they will not be removed as often as they ought, writes E. E. Banks in the *Poultry Advocate.*

It is said an earth floor furnishes a dust bath, and that the grain can be scattered on the ground, thus giving the fowl the much needed exercise. Just think of it! A mixture of dust bath, feed, litter and droppings, and we might as well say disease. A nice "mess," is it not? This is not all: An earth floor is a conductor of moisture and will draw moisture from the outside ground, thus making it more or less damp.

The best and the nearest to a natural floor is a board floor covered with sand or fine gravel and litter on top of this. Having the dust bath in a shallow box by itself, this kind of a floor can be easily kept clean, and the grain can be scattered in the clean litter, thus giving the fowl exercise just the same, besides adding a great deal more to their health and comfort than a filthy piece of earth. A cement floor, although a great improvement over Mother Earth, is not just the thing, as it is a conductor of both cold and moisture and is much colder and damper than wood, which is a non-conductor of cold and moisture, therefore, a good tight board floor is the ideal floor.

THE FRENCH METHOD OF KILLING AND DRESSING POULTRY FOR MARKET.

France is just now turning her attention to the most profitable plan of killing and dressing poultry for market purposes. The way in which poultry is prepared for the stalls can make as much as 15 per cent. difference in the actual selling price, that is to say, an inferior bird, if well dressed, will realize that higher percentage over an otherwise dressed fowl of superior quality. Indeed, so great is the importance being attached to the subject in question that there now exist syndicates of agriculture which engage the services of expert killers and dressers of poultry to give lessons in the art *per se*, and one or two of such practical demonstrations are worth all other systems of teaching. The killers in the central markets of Paris are so killed that they can kill and pluck—the back, breast and abdomen only—30 to 40 fowl per hour. Prior to killing fowl it is necessary to keep the birds 18 hours without food, while it is well to get them to drink a little milk, as that practice secures and imparts greater whiteness to their flesh, and leaves the intestines free. Some persons even add a few drops of vinegar to the milk. The birds are then placed inside a warm room in cages, which are covered with a cloth; that artificial heat facilitates the plucking operation.

There are two ways of killing the bird; first, by getting the latter between your legs, opening its bill, and plunging a sharp pair of scissors down its throat, thus severing the arteries and veins. In Paris this latter method is considered as being slow compared with the quicker practice of making a deep incision over the ear with a sharp knife. That plan cuts the carotid artery and induces profuse bleeding. Once dead, the fowl is hung up by the feet and "gutted;" all the intestines are removed save the liver and gizzard, while a clean, gray paper is thrust inside to make up for the void. In Paris, after the killer's rough plucking, the fowl pass to other hands to be completed and finally dressed. The plucking operation ought to be effected while the bird is still warm. According to the region, the plucking has its own "trade mark." Thus, in Normandy, it is the custom to leave no feathers at all; in Houdan Chartres and in the Gatinais a few feathers are only left on the wings; while in the South of France feathers are left on the tail and wings.

The birds are then dressed in various ways, with their feet drawn up to the back, and then pressed to look plump, flat or oval, following fancy. In La Bresse, for instance, the farmers there press the poultry between linen cloths soaked in fresh milk. Before packing the birds to send away, the fowl should be completely cold, otherwise fermentation will set in and impart a green color to the flesh. Every fowl ought by right to be wrapped in clean, white paper, not print, while each layer of birds should be separated by resting on rye straw.

Horse.

The latest device to encourge high stepping in coach horses is a glass worn like goggles, the crystals being so formed that the ground appears nearer than it is. It is said to work all right.—*Horse Review.*

The market for carriage horses was never better than to-day. The supply is far short of meeting the demand, and week after week buyers have to remain content with half-filled orders. Big, high styled trotting stallions beget the best carriage horses.

The holiday issue of the *Horseman*, replete as it is with fine illustrations of the noted winners of the year, and tables of producing sires with lists of fast performers is one of the intensely interesting and valuable publications which every horseman will want not only for immediate reading but for reference. It is sent free to all regular subscribers, and those who are not thus favored should obtain a copy from the office of publication, Chicago.

The Horse Review, Chicago, Ill., is one of the ablest horse publications of the day and one which never fails of putting out a Christmas issue full of interest to those who do not as well as those who do breed, train or own fast horses. This year John Trotwood Moore contributes a lengthy poem while our own Maine poet, Holman F. Day, adds one of his unique contributions full of interest. This copy of the *Review* is full of fine illustrations and full descriptive text and should be upon the table of every lover of the noble horse.

"The first place to hitch a horse" says an experienced grower, "is to a heavy wagon with a steady, unexcitable horse. Have him well strapped, one fastened to a rein, which is drawn between his hames, and then attached to the wagon. Another is tied to the hame of the other horse, and a third fastened to the outside of his bit, which is to be held in your hand. In this way, no matter how strong the colt, you can handle him with safety and ease. After a few lessons of this kind, if he is draft bred put him at some light work. If a driver, hitch him to the break cart and let a boy ride the other horse by his side a few times until he gets acquainted with the work. You will be surprised to find that a colt will succumb to the will of man easier at this age than younger, and you will no longer hear of valuable young horses being ruined at an early age.

The old maxim "use common sense and judgment" will apply to handling colts as well as anything else. Don't be foolhardy."

A HORSE WITH STAMINA.

The ideal horse that would be full of stamina as we call it, would have deep lungs, the depth counts a good deal more than width, for easy and long breathing, in fact I am a non-believer in the greater part of these fashionable broad chested horses, but low, being able to go their twelve miles in one hour and live after it, especially weighing 1,200 to 1,400 pounds. Second, the horse must have spirit. Third, he must have lots of ambition. Fourth, his bones must be smaller but more solid than a draft horse so as to give great strength with light weight. Fifth, he should be inclined to be tall for the weight. Sixth, he should be muscled in hard bands and appear knotted when the horse is in motion. Seventh, the barrel should be round and clean so as not to show gutty at all and the two ends of the horse should look a little large and deep for the body. Eighth, the horse that will have these qualities preeminent will always have a high rump, the root of the tail showing very prominent from the quarter down. Some things I say will be questioned, but come along and discuss horse breeding.—*Farmers' Tribune.*

BLANKETING UNCLIPPED HORSES.

We have reached the conclusion that a heavy blanket on an unclipped horse in the stable is detrimental to his health. Observation and experiment have convinced us that the unblanketed horse in the winter is the healthiest and most comfortable. The best possible condition for a horse to take cold is when he comes out of the stable where he has been standing blanketed. The cold air will strike like a knife into every part of his body. A heated horse should not be blanketed when he goes into the stable. A horse with long hair will remain wet all night under a blanket. If the stable is warm and free from draught the horse will be much better off without any covering whatever. Nature provides a covering ample to protect the unclipped horse in this climate in the winter. If more had been needed more would have been provided. We are not speaking idly. For some years we have carefully noted the effect of cold upon blanketed and unblanketed horses. Seven years ago we discarded the blanket, and the result has been entirely satisfactory. No man in his senses would think of wrapping himself up in a warm house and removing the wraps when he went out.

All this refers to unclipped horses. A man who would leave a clipped horse unblanketed in the winter should be arrested and sent to jail. And this brings us to remark that horses whose work causes them to perspire freely in cold weather are better for being clipped. The cold air is not half so penetrating to a clipped horse as to one with his coat on and wet. A clipped horse, if wet, can be rubbed dry in 15 minutes. The experiment has been thoroughly tested, and men who own horses worth thousands of dollars would not have them clipped if they did not believe they were better for it.—*Newark Sunday Call.*

FAULTY ACTION.

In a recent number of the American Horse Breeder, J. C. Curley, S. V. S., of Springfield, Mass., had the following to say regarding faulty action:

After 30 years of practical experience and study, I find thousands of men throughout this country who own valuable horses in deep trouble on account of the faulty action of their horse or horses, and while the art of veterinarian science is taught and brought almost, if not quite, to perfection by our many colleges, yet the young man is graduated and goes forth to the world without knowing how to cure faulty action. We are told the horseshoer is supposed to do all this, which is a sad mistake, as, after several hundred years, the shoer who thoroughly understands the anatomy of the horse's foot and who can cure the several faulty actions of the horse is a hard man to find. As a rule, they experiment on the feet until they are almost ruined, and then the veterinarian steps in and says, "lay him up, turn out to pasture, and let the feet grow."

While I am not invincible, and always ready to learn, I am happy to say that 90 per cent. of the faulty actions of horses that are reasonably sound can be cured, and two-thirds of what may be called incurable cases can be cured very easily and quickly—such as scalping, forging, side reining, etc. Those I mention as the easiest and can be absolutely cured at once.

The more difficult cases arising from a combination of three, four, or five defective faults in one horse at the same time, cases like this last surely require the most expert skill and science of which so few have but a faint idea, yet they can be readily cured. While every professor has his pet theories, I have my own scientific system, gained from 30 years of practical experience and study. I have got no patent outlaw shoes; I use no weights attached to the outside of the foot, no boots or elastic poles, or other unsightly detrimental obstacles.

While boot and weights may have a place on the race course where 2. 04 speed is called for, they surely have no place with a gentleman's road rig, and the scientist who asks a gentleman to drive his valuable young horse with the above unsightly, chafing, unnecessary paraphernalia is no expert, as the up-to-date expert can obtain the most speedy cure by the construction and formation of the shoe and foot and proper attention to the mouth and teeth, as well as the care and treatment of the feet and horse in general.

CHUNKS OF WISDOM ON THE HORSE.

It is doubtful if the country holds a more successful horseman than Col. F. J. Berry of Chicago, whose experience, commencing on the farm in York county has broadened until it is world wide. For this reason his words have added weight, and having had the opportunity of hearing Mr. Berry at Rochester, New York, we note the following valuable suggestions from his practical talk on the animal he loves.

"In breeding," said he, "the first and most important step is the selection of the mare. Give more attention to the mothers. Be sure that every one has merit, is full of nerve and energy, as well as has the right conformation. Never keep a mare up and feed her well. Work her or let her run to pasture. Feed her or let her feed for muscle. Put the halter on the colt the first day of its life, and allow it to remain five minutes, not more; do the same every day and halter break the first week.

Never check growth one particle. The colt which stops growing loses never to recover. Feed sweet, tender corn stalks all through fly time. Don't let them get thin in flesh. The stunted colt will never make the high class colt he might have had he been taken care of from the first. Feed not for fat but growth from mother's milk until sold on market. If you want to breed draft stock get that with good action, not dull and sluggish. It is just as easy to have a draft horse which picks up its knees as the laggard.

You can produce anything you want to, only keep the object in mind and allow no breaks. The spots of neglect are what spoil the horse. Labor is the foundation of all success and the successful breeder must labor to produce something a little ahead of the market. C. J. Hamlin started with this ideal and has kept everlastingly at it until now. No wonder he has made a success. No better chance is open to a young man than horse breeding to-day. Good horses are scarce, growing scarcer, going higher every year simply because we have let go breeding or else bred with no purpose. The world is full of misfits and misfits fit nobody. Don't try to grow horse-show freaks. These extremely high steppers are freaks and nothing else. Don't fear the automobile. It can never take the place of the high class horse. London requires 100,000 horses yearly for cab work and Berlin as many more. In 1896 Chicago required 16,000 double that of 1886 yet electricity had made wonderful strides during that time. The fact is the demand increases faster than the supply. Last year we received and sold 118,000, this year the number will be less because of lack of supply. We are sure to see the greatest horse famine ever known before the farmers wake up to the fact that here is the greatest chance they ever had provided they will grow the high class, first class road horse.

Maine Farmer.

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GEORGE M. TWITCHELL, Editor and Manager

THURSDAY, DEC. 21, 1899.

$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.
$1.50 AFTER 3 MONTHS.

ONLY AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER IN MAINE.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING:

For one inch space, $2.50 for four insertions and sixty cents for each subsequent insertion. Classified ads. one cent a word, each insertion.

COLLECTORS' NOTICES.

Mr. T. Brooks Reed is calling on subscribers in Kennebec county.
Mr. F. S. Berry is calling upon subscribers in Somerset County.
Mr. E. S. Gifford is calling on subscribers in Aroostook county.
Mr. E. M. Marks is calling upon subscribers in Piscataquis and Penobscot counties.
Mr. W. J. Haseltine is calling on subscribers in Waldo county.
Mr. A. G. Fitz is calling on subscribers in Cumberland county.
Mr. H. S. Lander is calling on subscribers in Eastern Kennebec county.
Mr. Elmer Hewitt is calling on subscribers in Lincoln county.

Nothing could be more fitting than the decorations at city hall. Corn is King and the patrons have recognized the kingship by their decorations.

The *Farmer* would bear to every one of the twelve thousand homes into which it will this week go, a hearty "Merry Christmas"—Merry because of what the day signifies and Merry still because of the promise of what the New Year is to bring to the earnest workers of New England.

Those outside as well as in the order will enjoy the clear cut, concise, comprehensive, progressive and intensely practical address of State Master Gardner delivered at the State grange and published in full on the first page. Its high position is typical of the position the grange occupies in Maine.

The reverses met by the British forces are causing sad disturbances in financial circles and also causing an uneasy feeling among other nations. It is by no means impossible that we are on the eve of some serious complications affecting several nations. It seems a little strange that the peace congress should usher in war.

The offer of a royalty of $50,000 yearly for the right to run an electric road between Boylston and School streets, Boston, suggests the value of franchises so freely voted by many of our towns and cities. The day is coming when our towns will look out for possible revenue rather than giving away rights and privileges.

The close of the sportsman's season furnishes a record of game killed far in excess of other years, with Aroostook and Washington Counties contributing the greater portion. In fact, the shore county is just coming into notice, and next year will divide the honors with its northern neighbor. The result of the season will be that Maine will attract by the thousands another year, where hundreds have been here this season.

New York newspapers are urging the city authorities to save the 13 historic trees in St. Nicholas avenue, which Alexander Hamilton brought from Mount Vernon to commemorate the 13 original states and planted in that avenue when New York was a comparatively small city. They are one of the very few Revolutionary mementoes left to the present generation, and it seems a great pity to have them cut down.

The railroads are fast becoming a powerful influence for reform in many ways. They are liberal contributors to the Y. M. C. A. buildings and libraries in all large cities. They are becoming more and more exacting in regard to the habits of all employees, allowing no drunkenness or profanity and insisting on that gentlemanly deportment which always promotes self respect, and now one road has declared against the cigarette as militating against the most effective service on the part of the smoker.

Another philanthropic enterprise is on foot in Philadelphia, the city of magnificent charities. It seems as if there must be something in a name, and that the spirit of brotherly love is more prevalent there because of this designation. Mr. Wiedener, a multi-millionnaire of the Quaker City, will devote two and a half millions to the establishment of a "Home, Hospital and School for Crippled Children," where such little unfortunates may be cared for, given medical treatment and taught means by which they may support themselves in many cases. Could the millionaire get as much happiness out of his money in any other way?

THE MAINE STATE GRANGE.

Among all the organizations of the state none stand in the same relation to the great bulk of our inhabitants as that of the Patrons of Husbandry. It has been in existence long enough for one generation of business men to grow from boyhood and going out from the farm homes find the opportunity in town or city for which they were fitted by nature. Thousands of these men had connection with some live grange and to-day turn back with pleasure to the memory of happy hours years ago.

Beyond this, in the growth of the order from its first beginning until the present every intelligent man reads the story of steady progress in the essentials which underlie good citizenship. The grange is to-day a mighty power recognized by all classes and to that extent the members are respected and honored. If asked what great good it has accomplished the answer would promptly be made that it has wrought a revolution in the minds of the town and city inhabitants regarding what farm life is, and the mental activity of the households. These men and women in large centres who came from the farm have realized the benefit they derived from the organization and been prompt to defend the work and worth of the order. More than this the high conception of the purposes as well as possibilities have quickened desire to plant on a broad basis so that the best possible evidence of permanence, the grange halls, rise in every part of Maine to testify to the conception of the worth of the grange on the part of the patrons. Still further the quality of the regular work done in grange sessions, as shown by the published programmes and the wealth of able addresses sought for publication by all the press, are but indications of that high appreciation everywhere manifest for this order inaugurated to promote agriculture and maintained to uplift and enrich the farm homes.

Steadily, surely, inevitably, the grange has been growing in the appreciation of the public until to-day all classes bear testimony to its worth as well as its saving influence. The large representation in Augusta this week simply attests the fact that the grange has come to be a necessity for the work of the future in the home and on the farm and that the patrons have met to gather inspiration for future efforts.

In its present position the order can accomplish what a few years ago was impossible and the character of the master's address, one of the best ever delivered, the lecturer's report and the report of some of the committees found in this issue all indicate that preparation is being made for a grand forward movement in all the essentials during the coming year. Conscious that better days are at hand for the farm and home, that an era of prosperity has already opened, these leaders have indicated a broad scope of work calling for increased study and investigation, more thorough application and more complete coöperation, but promising as the outcome, social, intelligent and financial returns beyond present attainments. To a great and noble object is the Order of Patrons of Husbandry committed to-day and every friend of Maine, every man and woman who desires its prosperity and believes in its future will unite in a hearty "Hail to the Grange."

ANNUAL MEETING MAINE DAIRYMEN.

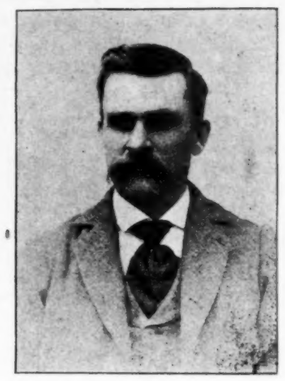
The Maine Dairymen's Association held its annual meeting at Lewiston, on Wednesday, the second day of the convention, at the close of the afternoon session. The old officers were re-elected as follows:

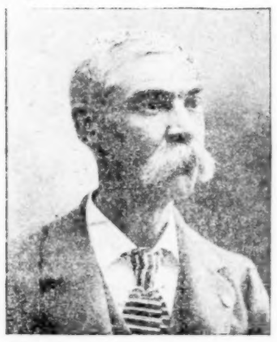
President, R. Alden, Winthrop; Vice President, W. C. Whitman, South Turner; Secretary, L. W. Dyer, Cumberland Centre; Treasurer, F. S. Adams, Bowdoin; Trustee, W. K. Hamlin, Waterford.

Corresponding secretaries, one from each county: Androscoggin, R. D. Leavitt, Howe's Corner; Aroostook, T. B Bradford, Golden Ridge; Cumberland, Geo. Blanchard, Cumberland Ctr.; Franklin, C. E. Wheeler, Chesterville; Hancock, J. A. Peters, Ellsworth; Lincoln, A. A. Fossett, Bristol; Knox, E. E. Light, Union; Kennebec; Otis Meader, Albion; Oxford, J. A. Roberts, Norway: Penobscot, C. L. Jones, Corinna; Piscataquis, F. W. Leland, East Sangerville; Sagadahoc, B. M. Patten, Topsham; Somerset, H. B. Ellis, Embden; Washington, A. E. Lincoln, Dennysville; Waldo, E. C. Dow, Monroe; York, F. B. Pike, Cornish.

The following action was unanimously passed. Voted, in behalf of the officers and members of the Maine Dairymen's Association, we extend our sincere thanks to Secretary McKeen and the Board of Agriculture for their kind and generous invitation to hold our annual meeting in connection with their Dairy Conference at Lewiston.

A FAITHFUL GRANGE QUARTETTE.





1 MASTER, O. GARDNER.
2 OVERSEER, F. S. ADAMS.
3 LECTURER, ELIJAH COOK.
4 SECRETARY, E. H. LIBBY.

A GRAND GRANGE SESSION.

The Twenty-Sixth Maine State Grange Session a Record Breaker.

If any one doubts the power and influence of the Maine State Grange, he should look down on the 800 Patrons in City Hall, the largest attendance ever secured, and note the enthusiasm which characterizes every session. It is a grandly representative body from the homes and farms of Maine, just such an one as arouses enthusiasm and respect from the city inhabitant. Augusta has, in previous years, attested its appreciation of the order, and Capital grange has accomplished what many larger bodies have failed to secure. This year there has been unusual coöperation on the part of the citizens, the Board of Trade, the city government and the two granges of the city, as well as the membership of Kennebec Pomona. Out of this unity of action has come that recognition of the order culminating in the reception Monday evening, when fully 800 patrons were present. The decorations by Capital and North Augusta granges are fine, designed by Bros. C. F. Fletcher and G. M. Twitchell, the long traces of golden corn being furnished by Clinton, China, Vassalboro, Winslow, Cushnoc, Windsor, Pittston, Litchfield, Manchester, Monmouth, Sidney, North Augusta, Capital and Readfield granges. Streamers carrying the grange colors, flags, flowers, grain and fruit are combined in the decorations, producing a most pleasing effect. The patrons do well to decorate with yellow corn, for it is the reliance of the farmer to-day.

Good music. A very pleasing address of welcome by Mayor Lane, and a most happy reply, characteristic of Bro. Gardner, put every one in readiness for the informal reception, to which Hon. C. S. Hichborn, President of the Board of Trade, invited one and all in such a cordial manner, that nearly every one in the hall was presented to the reception committee.

Refreshments and a right down social hour completed one of the happiest public occasions known for years. Tuesday the business sessions opened and work began. The address by State Master Gardner was an able effort, sound and progressive, fully satisfying the patrons, who frequently applauded the terse, decisive sentences, and approved the forward step taken by our chosen leader. The illness of State Lecturer Cook prevented his being present, but his report, sound to the core, will be found in another column.

Secretary Libby's report, showing the great gain made, and that of Treasurer Hunt, giving the sound and safe condition of the finances, were well received. The fact is that Maine has a stronger financial standing than any state.

Report of Treasurer.

Dr.

To balance in treasury, Oct. 1, 1898	$5,521.67
To cash of E. H. Libby, secretary, 5th and 6th degree fee	125.25
To fees and dues and sale of supplies	4,897.16
To cash of C. E. Knight, interest on stock in Co-operative Corporation to Dec. 1, 1898	350.40
Total amount receipts	$10,894.48

Cr.

By paid dues to National Grange,	$1,122.11
By paid orders worthy master and secretary	3,657.83
By balance in treasury	6,114.54
Total	$10,894.48

Fraternally submitted.
M. B. HUNT, Treasurer.

Edward Wiggin, chairman of committee on Good Will Farm, presented his report, briefly, as follows:

"Worthy Master and Patrons of the Maine State Grange: One year ago you generously placed in my hands, without bond or receipt, $300, of which I make report to-day. Believing Rev. Mr. Hinckley better fitted for custodian of the same, I turned it over to him and took receipt therefor. The itemized account of the way it was expended is as follows:

Furnace	$167.30
Work	66.40
Lumber	7.84
Material and work	29.01
Lumber	16.33
Hardware	77.42
Total	$364.20

In October, 1899, an epidemic of scarlet fever broke out among the 10 little girls at the Grange cottage, upon the date fixed for the arrival of another, which interfered with her reception. Seven were sent to the hospital set apart for the purpose. All are now convalescent. There are 10 girls now in the Home, and it is intended to increase the number to 15. The youngest is 7 and the oldest 14, with an average age of 9 years. Two are from Aroostook county and the rest from all over the State. Oxford, Kennebec, Somerset and Cumberland counties have each adopted one child, while Aroostook has taken the two from there. It is hoped that others will follow the good example set."

Executive.

L. W. Jose of Dexter, presented the report of the executive committee, briefly, as follows:

"Quite a number of meetings have been held during the year and considerable work accomplished. In the death of B. F. Briggs we have lost a brother with whom our association was at all times pleasant and harmonious, and we miss his able counsel. An autograph book has been procured for the names of Sixth Degree members. The treasurer was directed to deposit $1,000 with the Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Augusta, and $1,000 in the Augusta Savings Bank. Ansel Holway reported that he had organized and reorganized seven granges, and it was voted to continue his work under the supervision of State Master Gardner.

It was decided to employ National Master Jones for a series of field meetings, so arranged as to assemble the Patrons in as large gatherings as possible, for which arrangements were made, and he visited a number of places in different parts of the state. Brother Bearce reported invitations for the State Grange from Augusta, Portland and Bangor. Augusta was decided upon. Five hundred dollars more was deposited in the Augusta Savings Bank. It was voted that headquarters of the officers be at the Augusta House during the meeting of the State Grange. It was decided to again continue the deputy work of Bro. Holway and also that of Lecturer Cook. We think the deputy work should receive more attention, that it will be for the interest of the granges to enlarge this branch of the work.

The so-called Grange fertilizer gave such universal satisfaction that again the contract was made with the Russia Cement Company, they being the lowest bidders by sealed contract to furnish us with fertilizers the coming season. These are prepared after the formulas presented by Profs. Jordan and Wood, and if universally used, a large financial saving would result to the farmers. In regard to the sweet corn packing industry, the price paid is practically the same as in other states and about what packers can afford at present. Farm produce generally is commanding better prices. We should congratulate ourselves upon the prosperity of our order throughout the state. We regret the trouble upon fees and dues, and hope for better work in the future."

A pleasing feature of Tuesday afternoon, and one appreciated by all, was the presentation of a basket of flowers to State Master Gardner by the patrons of Penobscot county, Worthy Master Bearce, in a very pleasing manner, made the presentation speech.

Tuesday evening was devoted to ritualistic work and reports of county granges.

Wednesday brought clear skies and increased attendance, the election of officers being the work of the day.

Master—O. Gardner, Rockland.
Overseer—F. S. Adams, Bowdoinham.
Lecturer—Elijah Cook, Vassalboro.
Steward—A. B. Gerry, Dover.
Assistant Steward—S. C. Thompson, White's Corner.
Chaplain—S. F. Emerson, Skowhegan.
Treasurer—M. B. Hunt, Centre Belmont.
Secretary—E. H. Libby, Dirigo.
Gate Keeper—L. E. Tuttle, Caribou.
Remainder of elections in next issue.

On motion of G. M. Twitchell, it was voted that the secretary bear to our worthy lecturer Elijah Cook the result of the election, the regrets of the members that illness prevented his being present, the sentiment of appreciation for his grand services, and the pledge of support and hearty coöperation in the years to come.

WINTER MEETING STATE POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

There will be a special meeting and exhibition of the State Pomological Society at the town hall, New Gloucester, Jan. 18 and 19, 1900. Fruit must be arranged on the tables by noon of the first day. The afternoon and whole of the second day will be devoted to a programme with good speakers.

A FITTING TESTIMONIAL.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.
Springfield, Ohio, Nov. 22, 1899.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD WIGGIN,
MAYSVILLE CENTRE, ME.

Dear Brother and Sister: The duty, while it is sad, is a pleasant one personally and officially to transmit the enclosed resolution passed unanimously by the National grange in its 33d annual session.

Fraternally yours,
JOHN TRIMBLE, *Secy.*

NATIONAL GRANGE.
Springfield, O., Nov. 22, 1899.

Resolved, That this National Grange, in annual session, extends sympathy to Bro. Edward Wiggin, Past Master of the State Grange of Maine, and for four years a delegate to this body, also to Sister Wiggin, present Flora of this grange, who are detained at home by the sickness of Bro. Wiggin, and we hope for his speedy and complete recovery to perfect health; also our regrets at their enforced absence, assuring them that although absent, they are not forgotton.

Attest: JOHN TRIMBLE, *Sec.*
(Seal)

Who Will Reply?

Will you please inform me through your paper, the best way to color lamb skins with diamond dyes, and greatly oblige an old subscriber.

MRS. NELLIE CALDERWOOD.

City News.

—Don't forget there are Holiday Goods at Partridge's old reliable drug store, opposite post office. Call there before completing your purchases, and you will find something just right for a Christmas remembrancer within the limits of your purse.

—Augusta is given over to the State Grange this week, and her citizens rejoice in the opportunity of welcoming the Patrons. The grange owns the city and every one seems to be willing. The merchants have shown their interest by the decoration of their windows, in most of which the grange colors are very much in evidence, and a few enterprising stores display the grange emblems, artistically arranged.

—Never did the city of Augusta present a more attractive appearance than the present week and never were a party of visitors more enthusiastic over the reception given or the hospitality of the city. Every one has been made comfortable and only hearty words of praise have been heard for our hotels, boarding houses and homes. Whatever may be the decision of the future regarding place of meeting the Patrons of Maine will not forget Augusta nor its large hearted citizens.

County News.

The kindling wood factory at South Gardiner was destroyed by fire one night last week. Hard work on the part of the firemen saved other property from destruction.

—George P. Blackwell, the 10-year-old son of Frank Blackwell of Winslow, was drowned in the Sebasticook, Sunday morning. He was skating and broke through the ice.

—Waterville is talking opera house as well as Augusta. The plan is to erect it on the lot owned by Dr. F. C. Thayer and Hon. W. T. Haines, at the corner of Main and Appleton streets.

A corporation known as the Gardiner Street Railway Co. has been organized, its purpose being to build an electric railroad to South Gardiner and through the city of Gardiner. It is the intention of the company to begin work early in the spring.

David B. Heard, the Winslow liquor dealer, in jail at Augusta under sentence of eight months, committed suicide Friday night, after having previously made two unsuccessful attempts since September; once by cutting his throat with a razor, and once last week by jumping from a corridor, 30 feet to a brick floor beneath.

—The Universalist church and parish of Gardiner regret the resignation of their pastor, Rev. E. B. Barber, who has most acceptably served them for eight years. For the past two years he has held the office of superintendent of schools, and in this position has made many friends. His departure from the city will be universally deplored.

State News.

Fairfield's business prospects are good and with increased machinery in the woolen mill better days are in store for that good old town.

A valuable timber lot, situated on Lake Sebasticook, was sold last week by R. H. Libby, Newport. The lumber is being cut, and is to be hauled to Newport village this winter to be manufactured.

The shingle mill in Milltown, owned by H. F. Eaton & Sons, was destroyed by fire, Tuesday morning, and only hard work on the part of the firemen saved the other mills on the dam. The fire was undoubtedly incendiary.

The election for bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Maine, to succeed the late Bishop Neely, resulted in the choice of Rev. Robert Codman, Jr., rector of St. John's church, Roxbury, Mass. He has not yet announced his decision to accept the bishopric.

The case of Carl C. Parcher of Saco, a clerk in the York National Bank, who was arrested for tampering with the mails, is a singular one. There seems to have been no dishonesty intended, for although he has taken a large number of letters from the bank president's private box, no money was missing from any of them. He has made a full confession, but gives no reason for his conduct.

Within the past year or two there has been a decided boom in the Maine timberland market, and a vast area formerly owned in small divisions has now been accumulated by syndicates or rich firms and individuals, including large pulp corporations capable of holding the timber for fair prices and by careful cutting, of preserving the lands from denudation. It became known, not long ago, to outside capitalists that timberlands were held at lower valuation in Maine than in any other state of the northern timber belt, and that has brought many individuals and syndicates here with millions for investment. The result of the gathering into a few strong hands of much of the timberland of the state is generally regarded as a good thing for the interests of all concerned, for it will prevent waste and systematize the business of cutting logs for all purposes.

General News.

The work of exhuming the bodies of the victims of the Maine was begun on Monday of this week, under the supervision of Chaplain Chidwick.

By a rear end collision on the Providence division of the N. Y. N. H. & Hartford R. R. Saturday night, a score of persons were injured, none fatally. The accident was caused by the breaking of a draw-bar on one of the trains.

Lieutentant Thos. M. Brumby, flag lieutenant to Admiral Dewey in the Manila campaign, who had been ill with typhoid fever for several weeks, died at Garfield Hospital, Washington, shortly after 6 o'clock Sunday evening.

The great corporation of John P. Squire & Co., pork packers, of Boston, made an assigment last week in the interest of their creditors. The assets of the company are valued at about $5,000,000, and the liabilities somewhere in the neighborhood of $3,000,000. The $2,000,000 remaining is mostly in real estate.

Contracts have been made at Honolulu for connecting all the islands of the Hawaiian group by the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy. Mr. F. J. Cross states that he has secured exclusive rights to use the system there, with an agreement from the inventor to put the system in working order. The apparatus is to arrive in Honolulu by Feb. 1, and the system will be in operation by Mar. 1.

The British forces in South Africa continue to meet with severe reverses at the hands of the Boers, until England is on the verge of a panic. England now has 75,000 men in South Africa. The revised list of the British casualties in the late battle shows the total to be 963, of which number 70 were officers. The Black Watch were the heaviest sufferers. Of the rank and file 42 were killed, 182 wounded and 111 are missing.

Get fine Virginia Holly for Christmas decoration at Partridge's old reliable drug store, opp. postoffice, 10, 15 and 25c. The *Farmer* acknowledges the receipt of a fine bunch of this beautiful Christmas green.

The First National Bank of Augusta.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Augusta, Maine, will be held at the banking rooms of said bank on Tuesday, January 9th, 1900, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the choice of Directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

C. S. HICHBORN, Cashier.
Augusta, Dec. 15th, 1899. 318

Classified Ads.

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Classified Ads.

N. B. Hereafter, Sale, Want and Exchange advertisements will be inserted under this general head at ONE CENT a word, and will be given a choice position. No displayed advertisement, otherwise than an initial letter and the usual stock cuts, will be inserted in this department. Pay must invariably be in advance.

MONMOUTH JERSEY HERD offers first-class young bulls from three to eight months old; also one heifer calf. All solid color and of first class breeding. Write for price and pedigree. LITCHFIELD & HAYNES, Monmouth, Maine. 347

FINE-BLOODED Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry, Sporting Dogs. Send stamps for catalogues. 150 engravings. N. P. BOYER & Co., Coatesville, Pa.

ST. LAMBERT JERSEYS. Young stock; royally bred. Write for prices and pedigrees. W. W. DAVIS, Manager Mackworth Farm, Portland, Maine. 417

SHORTHORNS FOR SALE—Registered bull calf. High grade heifers. Milking strains. CHAS. P. WOODBURY, Lincoln Centre, Maine. tf6

FOR SALE—Richly bred, large and handsome young A. J. C. C. bulls. Write for description and prices. N. L. LITTLEFIELD, Prospect, Maine. 416

FOR SALE—Good land at $8 per acre; fine set of buildings free. Address, W. A. HALL, Halldale, Maine. 316

50 WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCK Cockerels and pullets, also a few yearling hens for sale. V. H. MUTTY, South Brewer, Maine. 613

BERKSHIRE PIGS FOR SALE; also young boar 4 months old, sired by King Leo 14th. All eligible to registry and fashionably bred. Young bulls sired by Fancy's Harry 7th. MT. PLEASANT FARM, So. Vassalboro, Maine.

BAGS—We will buy cotton seed meal bags, gluten, bran, middlings and flour sacks and pay the freight. SAGADAHOC FERTILIZER Co., Bowdoinham, Me.

GREEN CUT BONE—where procured. A. G. B. NOYES, Cooper's Mills, Me.

PRIME Eggs case illustrated circular and price list free. Agent Wanted. E. A. FARRE, Ayer Junction, Mass

ADDRESSES AT DAIRY CONFERENCE.

Lessons to be Learned from the Interstate Dairy Conference at Portland, by Hon. R. W. Ellis, Embden.

One year ago we met our dairy friends from Vermont, New Hampshire, and some from Massachusetts, at Portland, and had a very enjoyable time. We found them to be a very fine class of people, and from our short acquaintance with them, think we got many useful ideas, and upon the lessons to be learned from that meeting I shall speak very briefly this evening.

First, as one of the dairymen of Maine, I wish to thank Brother McKeen for bringing it about, and for the very successful manner in which he carried it through.

The first lesson we learn is how little reliance can be placed upon the butter scores at our state dairy meetings as indicating the relative quality of the butter of the different states or of individuals when the makers are known. It must be pretty thoroughly proven to any one who has given the matter any thought that the taste is entirely subservient to the will, and the will may be governed, unconsciously, by outside circumstances and conditions. For instance, when an expert comes to a package of butter made by some noted person up in Vermont, that particularly nice, rich flavor which he is expecting to find precedes the butter in his mouth, it "gits there fust," as David Harum would say, and it holds possession, but when he comes to a package of Maine butter, up comes the "Boston Price Current" in his mind, "Maine butter 2 to 3 cents lower." Down goes the score 2 to 3 points. We all know instances in our own state, also in Vermont and New Hampshire, where noted butter makers, who had usually carried off first honors with scores up among the sevens and eights, when they come down to Portland, where their butter was not surrounded by that "halo" with which it was at home, their scores come down with the rest of us mortals, 90 to 93 points. You all remember the score Mr. White gave the New Hamshire dairymen two years ago, some of them as high, I think, as 99, with an average of 96 for the whole lot. The best of them came down to Portland and the highest they got was 94, with an average of 91, and some of this same butter was taken to New Hampshire the next week and scored by the same parties 4 points higher. I have talked with these Boston experts about the standing of our butter in Boston market, asked them if they did not think the difference was more imaginary than real. They would say, "It may be, to some extent, but there is no question but there is a peculiarly rich flavor in the Vermont butter, not found in Maine butter. It might not be detected by an ordinary person, but an expert can detect it at once." When they were invited by our secretary of the Board of Agriculture to come down to Portland and meet us in a friendly contest, they accepted with alacrity, and came down in goodly numbers, not exactly with the same feeling, perhaps, that Goliath went out to meet David, but with a pretty strong assurance that the only question would be as to *how much* they should beat us, and why should they not feel that way? They have been told by every expert for years they were from 2 to 4 points ahead of us. Mr. Douglas was selected to make the awards, a man who has the reputation of being the best judge of butter in all New England, if not the United States, but who is a Boston butter dealer and of course has his preference for Vermont and New Hampshire butter, but here he was completely hedged about. He had no possible way of knowing whose butter he was scoring, where it came from or whether it was creamery or dairy. Well, he went at it manfully, and examined the whole lot, over 100 packages, and when he found one exceptionally fine, he set it aside for a cross examination, and I think he had some 12 or 15 of these extra nice specimens, and after dinner he went at the cross examination (with the help of Mr. White, I am told). This must have been a trying time for them, for they had both declared, over and again, that Vermont and New Hampshire were both ahead of Maine, and now their reputation was at stake. What would they have given for one ray of light as to where the butter came from, but there were only the numbers and they would not speak, so they had to make a leap in the dark, with nothing but their taste to guide them, and when the books were opened they found the first honors had gone to A. J. Abbott, North Paris, Me.; 2d, to Frank W. Blanchard, Cumberland Center, Me., with scores of 96¾ and 96; 3d, divided between C. E. Sherburne, North Pomfret, Vt., and G. M. Gowell, Orono, Me., 95½ points. Now the dairymen of Maine don't propose to put on any airs, but we do claim that hereafter we shall be allowed as the equals of any other New England state, and when the butter in other states is scored away above ours, it is the state that gets scored and not the butter.

But when we come to the creamery class Maine does not stand as well, although Skowhegan creamery scored as high as any in Vermont or New Hampshire, excepting one, 96 points, but on the average we are away below. Vermont made a wonderful showing, 17 creameries, averaging 94½ points. Now here is a lesson for Maine dairymen to study to their advantage, if they will. With all the natural advantages for making a superior butter, as we have just demonstrated in the dairy class, why should we fall so far behind in the creamery class? The reason is very obvious. They have long been in the business, they have found out there is money in it, they are united and enthusiastic. All, or nearly all, in the locality of a factory, stock their farms with cows to their full capacity, keeping from 20 to 50 to a farm. They carry their milk to the factory every morning and carry home their skimmed milk. The milk is run through a separator, the cream is put through the proper process, is made into the finest article of butter and is put into the Boston market in three days from the time the milk is drawn from the cow. Of course it brings the top price and the cost of making and marketing is from two to three cents per lb., generally netting the farmers from 22 to 23 cents average for the year. Do you wonder they are contented and happy to come down here and make the showing they do?

Now we have all the natural advantages they have save one. Their farms are set up edgeways so they can cultivate both sides, while we have to be content cultivating one. We have a very few factories in our state working on much the same plan of theirs but a large majority of them are run very differently. Take our county of Somerset for example; it is not a dairy county. Fat stock and sheep predominate, with quite a sprinkling of horse raising. When the stock business went down a few years ago they turned their attention to dairying somewhat and four factories were built and are now running, but at a poor, half dying rate. Since the revival of the beef business many have gone back into their old business again. Now we have first class farms within a radius of five miles of either of these factories sufficient to run them in as good shape as any Vermont factory is run but a majority of these farmers are in other kinds of business, and their cream gatherers have to travel long distances and get but little cream, so it makes it very expensive and they go but twice or three times a week, so cannot make a first class article of butter, and of course it cannot bring first price, so the farmer gets small pay for his cream and the manufacturer is not making much money if he is honest with his patrons. There are some first class dairymen patronizing these factories, who have good herds and run everything in fine shape but they are terribly dissatisfied. I asked one of them how his factory was getting along. He said, "They are robbing us." How much are they paying? "Just enough so we can't prosecute them for stealing," he replied. He said, "They came up on price recently but they cut down in the test more than enough to offset it." So you see he was not feeling very happy over the situation, and there is nothing to encourage those in other lines of business to go into it.

You may say I am not making very good talk to encourage dairying. Perhaps not, but a trouble must be seen before it will be remedied. I don't believe in pushing associated dairying to the front in localities where other lines of farming predominate, and I believe it would be better for the real dairymen in these localities to pull out from the factories and manufacture their own or where there are several in close proximity, pool in together and make a first-class article of dairy butter at small expense and which would bring top price, than to pay the high price they have to for collecting and making, and sell as second-class creamery butter. Where dairying predominates, I believe in doing all we can to encourage those in it to do more and better work and thereby encourage those in other lines to come in with them, for the more cows kept on a given area of territory, the less the cost of making and the better the article made, so they gain a double advantage. I believe in the coöperative rather than the proprietary method of doing the business. There is not so much chance for fault-finding, and where each one owns a share and has a voice in the management, he is more interested to do the best he can himself and see that others do the same, to the end that the best article of butter is made at the smallest cost.

I have heard so much complaint and dissatisfaction manifested when some one else owned the plant and managed both ends of the business that I don't believe in it at all. We have but one life to live and I think it is the part of wisdom in us to get all the enjoyment and happiness out of it possible. I do not believe a man is very happy who feels all the time he is being wronged. Now let me repeat the text I took at Norway a few years ago: "What the dairymen of Maine need is more faith in their business and confidence one in another; faith to that extent that they will put all their energy, might, mind and strength into it, keeping every cow possible and caring for them and their product in such a manner as to get all possible out of them; confidence in each other to that extent that we are willing to coöperate in making, marketing and all the management of the business, and always be willing to help one another, feeling that in so doing we are helping ourselves and increasing the happiness of all.

"The Potential Energy of Food," Abstract of Paper by Prof. Chas. D. Woods, Orono.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is only by the intelligent, practical application by feeders themselves of the great truths which research is showing to underlie animal production that advance is made in feeding practice. I made no apology last year, and I intend to make none this year for coming before you with the results of abstract inquiry concerning the problems which underlie successful feeding of farm animals. For some years a new factor in cattle feeding has been pushing its way to the front. While our knowledge of the way the potential energy of food is made available to the animal is still limited and in some ways fragmentary, enough has been learned so that, in my opinion, we are at the beginning of an important advance in the science of feeding. Our knowledge is much more definite than when twenty-five years ago the subject of scientific cattle feeding was first expounded before the Maine Board of Agriculture at a meeting held at Wiscasset.

Diverse as have been the theories and abstract as have been the inquiries, two points have always been of importance in these investigations and are important today. Theories and ideas of nutrition are of value to the practical feeder in so far as they help (1) to a knowledge of the cost of a method of feeding and its profit and (2) to devise feeding standards and formulas which can be successfully followed.

The Composition of Feeding Stuffs.—In order to successfully feed the humblest animal on the farm profound research into still unknown problems of physiology and chemistry is needed. By chemical study it has been found that irrespective of the kind and source, the materials which are used for the food of domestic animals contain chemical compounds which can be conveniently grouped into five or six classes. All feeding stuffs contain more or less of water which has, so far as experiments show, no more value as a food than other water. Indispensable as water is to the health and life of an animal, its presence in feeding stuff makes the feeding stuffs so much the less valuable since it displaces other nutrients. With few exceptions all materials used as food contain mineral matters. These for the most part are left behind when the substance is burned and constitute what is known as ash. The mineral matters, such as phosphates and chlorides of lime, sodium and potassium are of nutritive value, but as they are usually found in excess in ordinary food materials, they are not generally taken into account in nutrition. There have been made very recently some very interesting experiments touching upon the functions of mineral matters in food. For example it has been found that rats which are thoroughly well nourished with whole wheat flour are very incompletely nourished and finally die when confined to an exclusive diet of bread flour. It is thought by the one reporting these experiments that the animals were incompletely nourished because they were deprived of the small amount of iron which is always found in the bran of wheat. The function of the mineral salts in nutrition is one of many subjects that needs a much fuller investigation.

The three classes of compounds which are chiefly taken into account in considering the food nutrients are protein, fats and carbohydrates. The protein differs from the other compounds in that it contains nitrogen. There are, however, by ordinary processes of analysis grouped under the head of protein, materials which only partially resemble true protein, either in composition or in nutritive value. Among the true protein compounds familiar examples are found in the gluten of wheat, white of egg, casein (curd) of milk. Materials such as potatoes, roots and in fact most vegetables contain larger or smaller amounts of nitrogenous matters which are called amides. These are very inferior to true protein for nutrition. Just as gelatin, the material composing cartilage in animal tissues is of far less nutritive value than the lean of meat, so these compounds are inferior to true protein.

By fat in cattle foods is usually meant those materials which can be dissolved out by either. They contain not only the true fats such as oil of meal, cottonseed meal, etc., but in addition there may be various waxy and resinous substances, and in the case of grasses and other green feeds, there will be more or less of chlorophyll, the green coloring matter of plants. The feeding value of the resinous substances and chlorophyll, etc., is not nearly equal to that of true fats.

The carbohydrates include such materials as starches and sugars which are easily and quite completely digested; they also include substances like woody fiber and lignin which have comparatively little value as a food. Woody fiber or cellulose, familiar to us as paper, has the same chemical composition as starch, but is only slightly and imperfectly acted upon by the digestive juices.

It is evident, therefore, that while the nutritive value of feeding stuffs depends upon their protein, fat and carbohydrates content, that the character of these compounds is also of considerable importance. In comparing such materials as potatoes and corn, we find that while corn has about ten per cent. protein, and potatoes about two per cent., the protein of corn is nearly all true protein, nearly half of that of the potato is in the amide form, which is far less valuable in nutrition. Hence, although as usually given in tables of analysis corn has only five times as much protein as potatoes, for nutrition it actually has nearly ten times as much.

Function of the Nutrients.—While the building of all tissues, with the exception of fatty tissue is dependent upon the presence of protein and cannot take place without protein, it is also burned in the body and is used as a source of energy. It therefore has the two-fold function, that of building up and repairing the body and furnishing the energy to keep the body warm, to do muscular work, etc. Experiments which have been made with carnivorous animals, such as cats and dogs, indicate that animals may obtain all of their energy from protein. This, however, is not an economical use of protein since the same energy can be obtained from other sources at a much less cost. Fat can be burned in the body and its energy used to keep the body warm and to do work. The same is true of the carbohydrates. Any excess of energy may be stored up in the body in the form of fat. Protein and carbohydrates can be converted into fat in the animal body, but so far as known protein and fats cannot be changed into carbohydrates, and from lack of nitrogen, if for no other reason, protein cannot be formed in the body from fats and carbohydrates.

The Conservation of Energy.—While Lavoisier had proved that oxidation goes on in the body just as truly as fuel in a furnace, and although Liebig pointed out that the fats and carbohydrates were the chief sources of energy no attempt was made until comparatively recent years to at all accurately measure the amounts of energy which different food materials contain. In about 1851 Regnault and Reiset made an investigation into the chemistry of combustion in the body and they pointed out the relation between animal heat and the heat of combustion. With the discovery of the law of the indestructibility of matter in nature, experiments were undertaken to find whether this law held in the animal organism and by experiments in the respiration apparatus where it was possible to analyze not only the food and drink and the air breathed by the animal, but to collect and analyze all of the excretions including that of respiration, it was found that the animal neither gained nor lost in weight, and that there was a balance between the income and outgo of matter and the fact was established that the body can neither create nor destroy matter. Later when it was found that energy which exists in one form may be changed into another, as that in the mechanical world there was no such thing as the creation or loss of energy, it began to dawn upon physiologists that probably the body could neither create or destroy energy and that phenomena which had been explained by vital force were probably only the manifestation in another form of energy which already existed. It has, therefore, come to be assumed that conservation of energy as it is termed which holds in the mechanical world holds also in the animal. Just as Pettenkofer and his associates, proved in the respiration apparatus that the animal body can neither create or destroy matter, so experiments are being made, notably at Middletown, Connecticut, whereby not only the income and outgo of matter, but the income and outgo of energy are determined. The preliminary experiments show, as was expected, that there is a balancing up between the income and outgo of energy in the body, as well as in the income and outgo of matter; in other words, these and similar experiments indicate that whatever work is done in the body, the energy is derived from the potential energy of the food.

Food Defined; Digestibility—Voit defined food as those materials which build and repair the animal body. This definition would include water, the air which we breathe and the mineral matters as food. Atwater has defined food as that which when taken into the body builds up its tissues and keeps them in repair, or is consumed in the body to yield energy in the form of heat to keep it warm and create strength for its work. This definition would make materials containing protein food, since they both build up and repair tissues and are consumed in the body to yield energy. It would include fats and carbohydrates for while they cannot build up tissues, they are burned to keep the body warm or to do work. It would exclude water and most mineral matters since they pass through the body unchanged. The two chief uses of the food of animals are: (1) to form the material of the body and make up its waste and (2) to yield energy in the form of heat to keep the body warm and muscular and other power for the work it has to do. In doing the first of these two duties, that of forming the tissues and fluids of the body, the food serves for building and repairing; in doing the second, that of yielding energy, it serves as fuel.

It is obvious that only that part of the food which can be assimilated by the body can be used by it. Materials which pass through the digestive tract unchanged and unacted upon by the digestive fluids are just as much beyond the reach of the body as though they had not been eaten. As has been tersely put it is not the food eaten but the food digested that we live upon. Recognizing this for many years chemists have been making what are termed digestion experiments with our common feeding stuffs and not only are there tables which show the composition of feeding stuffs, but there are tables showing the amounts of the digestible nutrients of the various feeding stuffs. A digestion experiment consists of analyzing and feeding a definite weight of a substance and collecting, weighing and analyzing the fæces which contain the undigested matter. The difference between the amount of nutrients eaten and that found in the solid excrement is taken as a measure of the amount of food digested. Simple as this is in statement there are many things which make such experiments difficult and the results somewhat uncertain. The results which are obtained in digestion experiments do not exactly measure the amount of nutrients of any given food which can be dissolved out of it, but such experiments in general give too low results. The practical question, however, is not so much what is actually dissolved out as how much of the food eaten becomes available to the animal. Digestion experiments as ordinarily conducted measure the amount of the nutrients which become available with a good deal of certainty. By experiments of this kind there have been found how much of protein, how much of fat and how much of carbohydrates in different faod materials become available to the average animal.

The available energy has been determined only in a few foods. Protein is not completely burned in the body, but there is a residual product called urea. The difference between the potential energy of the urea and the protein makes it so that they are available to the body about 18.6 calories for each hundredth of a pound of protein. The carbohydrates on an average furnish the same amount, 18.6 per one hundredth of a pound. When fat is burned there is given off 42.2 calories with each oue hundredth of a pound.

By carefully conducted feeding experiments in the respiration apparatus, it has been found that the animal body very soon gets its equilibrium, so far as its income and outgo of nitrogen is concerned. If the food contains more protein than has been the custom in the past the animal for a time seems to store up protein, but after a few days the animal resumes its normal condition so that unless the animal is actually making growth, the income and outgo exactly balance each other. On the other hand if the animal receives less protein for a time the nitrogen excreted will exceed that in the food. This, of course, will make the animal lose in weight, but after a time, unless the ration is smaller than the animal can live upon, the income and outgo of nitrogen will balance each other. The case is different with the fats and carbohydrates as unless the animal is fed just the amount of materials needed there is a storing up of these materials in the form of fat or else a loss of fat to the body by more fuel ingredients being used than the food contains.

Fuel values have another unusual important bearing from the standpoint of the chemist, and consequently from that of the practical feeder as well. As I have shown earlier in the paper carbohydrates are made up of a large number of different compounds, differing not so much in their chemical composition as in their availability to the animal. The same thing is true of the ether extract so that if a pound of fat represents the ether extract of hay its feeding value is less than if it represents a pound of the fat of corn or of oil meal, since the extract from hay will contain not only true oils but waxes, resins, chlorophyll and allied materials. No methods have yet been devised which will either accurately or readily distinguish between these different classes of compounds. With the nitrogenous constituents of feeding stuffs, however, the case is different; while true protein is far more valuable than amide nitrogen it is possible with a good deal of accuracy to distinguish between these two classes of compounds by chemical analysis. Furthermore, there are more accurate determinations made in a laboratory than those of fuel values, hence the use of protein and fuel values as a measure of the value of feeding stuffs not only simplifies the matter, but makes a far more accurate expression of the value of a feeding stuff and makes it possible to accurately compare very different classes of food materials.

THE BUTTER EXHIBITION AT LEWISTON

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

Butter made from cream raised by the Cooley submerged can process, Bethel Dairying Co, 1st; G O Wells, Mt Vernon, 2d.

Vermont Farm Machine Co., Special.

C L Jones, Corinna.

Worcester Salt Co., Special.

Creamery Butter—Bethel Dairying Co, Bethel, 1st; Turner Center Dairying Association, Auburn, 2d.

Dairy Butter—Frank W Blanchard, Cumberland Center, 1st; C L Jones, Corinna, 2d.

Moseley and Stoddard Manufacturing Co., Special.

Dairy Butter—Frank W Blanchard, Cumberland Center.

Wells & Richardson Co., Special.

Creamery Butter—Bethel Dairying Co., Bethel, 1st; Turner Center Dairying Association, Auburn, 2d.

Dairy Butter.

First, E E Chase, South Bethel; Jere O'Roak, Sherman Mills; C I Grinnell, East Exeter; S S J Porter, Cumberland Center.

Second, D S Glidden, Cooper's Mills; A W Whitehouse, Norway; J O Butman, Readfield; E W Hall, Mt Vernon; H L Wing, Knox Station; Chas H Fuller, Norridgewock; Fred J Locke, Mount Vernon.

Dairy Cheese.

Sage—Mrs A E Whipple, Bingham.

Factory Cheese.

Leeds Center Dairy Association, Leeds Center, 1st and 2d.

Bottled Cream and Milk.

Cream—F H Briggs, Auburn, 1st; W H McQueston, Lewiston, 2d; Turner Center Dairying Association, Auburn, 3d.

Milk—F H Briggs, Auburn, 1st; F A Pooler, Skowhegan, 2d; Turner Center Dairying Association, Auburn, 3d.

Dressed Poultry and Eggs.

Largest and Best Display of Poultry—I V McKenney, Auburn, 1st; L C Waterman, Buckfield, 2d.

Heaviest and Best Dressed Turkey—J B Bryant, Buckfield, 1st; Mr. Cole, Bryant's Pond, 2d.

Best Pair Yellow Meated Chickens—I V McKenney, Auburn, 1st, 2d and 3d.

Best Pair White Meated Chickens—L C Waterman, Buckfield, 1st and 2d; Lunt & Curtis, Freeport, 3d.

Best Pair Fattened Fowl—I V McKenney, Auburn, 1st and 2d.

Best Dozen Brown Eggs—I V McKenney, Auburn, 1st; Mrs George Oliver, Lewiston, 2d.

Best Dozen White Eggs—C Y Francis, Otisfield Gore, 1st; J B Bryant, Buckfield, 2d.

Heaviest Dozen Eggs—B W Thorne, Lewiston, 1st; I V McKenney, Auburn, G S Stevens, Turner, 2d.

(Owing to the great pressure of other matter in our column this week, the addresses of Prof. Gowell and Hon. Z. A. Gilbert were crowded out, but will appear in a later issue.)

For the land's sake—use Bowker's fertilizer.

The Story of an African Farm.

By OLIVE SCHREINER.

Remembrance of delight in the feel and smell of the first orange we ever see; of sorrow which makes us put up our lip and cry hard when one morning we run out to try to catch the dewdrops and they melt and wet our little fingers; of almighty and despairing sorrow when we are lost behind the kraals and cannot see the house anywhere.

And then one picture starts out more vividly than any.

There has been a thunderstorm. The ground as far as the eye can reach is covered with white hail. The clouds are gone, and overhead a deep blue sky is showing. Far off a great rainbow rests on the white earth. We, standing in a window to look, feel the cool, unspeakably sweet wind blowing in on us, and a feeling of longing comes over us, unutterable longing, we cannot tell for what. We are so small our head only reaches as high as the first three panes. We look at the white earth and the rainbow and the blue sky; and, oh, we want it, we want, we do not know what. We cry as though our heart was broken. When one lifts our little body from the window, we cannot tell what ails us. We run away to play.

So looks the first year.

II.

Now the pictures become continuous and connected. Material things still rule, but the spiritual and intellectual take their places.

In the dark night when we are afraid we pray and shut our eyes. We press our fingers very hard upon the lids and see dark spots moving round and round, and we know they are heads and wings of angels sent to take care of us, seen dimly in the dark as they move round our bed. It is very consoling.

In the day we learn our letters and are troubled because we cannot see why k-n-o-w should be know and p-s-a-l-m psalm. They tell us it is so because it is so. We are not satisfied. We hate to learn. We like better to build little stone houses. We can build them as we please and know the reason for them.

Other joys, too, we have incomparably greater than even the building of stone houses.

We are run through with a shudder of delight when in the red sand we come on one of those white wax flowers that lie between their two green leaves flat on the sand. We hardly dare pick them, but we feel compelled to do so; and we smell and smell till the delight becomes almost pain. Afterward we pull the green leaves softly into pieces to see the silk threads run across.

Beyond the "kopje" grow some pale green hairy leaved bushes. We are so small they meet over our head, and we sit among them and kiss them, and they love us back. It seems as though they were alive.

One day we sit there and look up at the blue sky and down at our fat little knees, and suddenly it strikes us: Who are we? This I—what is it? We try to look in upon ourself, and ourself beats back upon ourself. Then we get up in great fear and run home as hard as we can. We can't tell any one what frightened us. We never quite lose that feeling of self again.

III.

And then a new time rises. We are 7 years old. We can read now, read the Bible. Best of all, we like the story of Elijah in his cave at Horeb and the still small voice.

One day, a notable one, we read on the "kopje" and discover the fifth chapter of Matthew and read it all through. It is a new gold mine. Then we tuck the Bible under our arm and rush home. They didn't know it was wicked to take your things again if some one took them, wicked to go to law, wicked to— We are quite breathless when we get to the house. We tell them that we have discovered a chapter they never heard. We tell them what it says. The old wise people tell us they know all about it. Our discovery is a mare's nest to them, but to us it is very real. The Ten Commandments and the old "Thou shalt" we have heard about long enough and don't care about it, but this new law sets us on fire. We will deny ourself. Our little wagon that we have made we give to the little Kaffirs. We keep quiet when they throw sand at us, feeling, oh, so happy. We conscientiously put the cracked teacup for ourselves at breakfast and take the burned roaster cake. We save our money and buy threepence of tobacco for the Hottentot maid who calls us names. We are exotically virtuous. At night we are profoundly religious. Even the ticking watch says, "Eternity, eternity, hell, hell hell!" and the silence talks of God and the things that shall be.

Occasionally also unpleasantly shrewd questions begin to be asked by some one, we know not whom, who sits somewhere behind our shoulder. We get to know him better afterward. Now we carry the questions to the grown up people, and they give us answers. We are more or less satisfied for the time. The grown up people are very wise, and they say it was kind of God to make hell and very loving of him to send men there, and, besides, he couldn't help himself, and they are very wise, we think, so we believe them, more or less.

IV.

Then a new time comes, of which the leading feature is that the shrewd questions are asked louder. We carry them to the grown up people. They answer us, and we are not satisfied.

And now between us and the dear old world of the senses the spirit world begins to peep in and wholly clouds it over. What are the flowers to us? They are fuel waiting for the great burning. We look at the walls of the farmhouse and the matter of fact sheep kraals, with the merry sunshine playing over all, and do not see it. But we see a great white throne and him that sits on it. Around him stand a great multitude that no man can number, harpers harping with their harps, a thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands. How white are their robes, washed in the blood of the Lamb! And the music rises higher and rends the vault of heaven with its unutterable sweetness. And we, as we listen, ever and anon, as it sinks on the sweetest, lowest note, hear a groan of the damned from below. We shudder in the sunlight.

"The torment," says Jeremy Taylor, whose sermons our father reads aloud in the evening, "comprises as many torments as the body of man has joints, sinews, arteries, etc., being caused by that penetrating and real fire of which this temporal fire is but a painted fire. What comparison will there be between burning for a hundred years' space and to be burning without intermission as long as God is God?"

We remember the sermon there in the sunlight. One comes and asks why we sit there nodding so moodily. Ah, they do not see what we see!

> A moment's time, a narrow space,
> Divide me from that heavenly place
> Or shuts me up in hell.

So says Wesley's hymn, which we sing evening by evening. What matter sunshine and walls, men and sheep?

"The things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." They are real.

The Bible we bear always in our breast. Its pages are our food. We learn to repeat it. We weep much, for in sunshine and in shade, in the early morning or late evening, in the field or in the house, the devil walks with us. He comes to us a real person, copper colored face, head a little on one side, forehead knit, asking questions. Believe me, it were better to be followed by three deadly diseases than by him. He is never silenced—without mercy. Though the drops of blood stand out on your heart, he will put his question. Softly he comes up (we are only a wee bit child): "Is it good of God to make hell? Was it kind of him to let one be forgiven unless Jesus Christ died?"

Then he goes off and leaves us writhing. Presently he comes back.

"Do you love him?" Waits a little. "Do you love him? You will be lost if you don't."

We say we try to.

"But do you?" Then he goes off.

It is nothing to him if we go quite mad with fear at our own wickedness. He asks on, the questioning devil. He cares nothing what he says. We long to tell some one, that they may share our pain. We do not yet know that the cup of affliction is made with such a narrow mouth that only one lip can drink at a time and that each man's cup is made to match his lip.

One day we try to tell some one. Then a grave head is shaken solemnly at us. We are wicked, very wicked, they say. We ought not to have such thoughts. God is good, very good. We are wicked, very wicked. That is the comfort we get. Wicked? O Lord, do we not know it? Is it not the sense of our own exceeding wickedness that is drying up our young heart, filling it with sand, making all life a dust bin for us?

Wicked? We know it! Too vile to live, too vile to die, too vile to creep over this (God's) earth and move among his believing men. Hell is the one place for him who hates his master, and there we do not want to go. This is the comfort we get from the old.

And once again we try to seek for comfort. This time great eyes look at us wondering, and lovely little lips say:

"If it makes you so unhappy to think of these things, why do you not think of something else and forget?"

Forget! We turn away and shrink into ourself. Forget and think of other things! O God, do they not understand that the material world is but a film, through every pore of which God's awful spirit world is shining through on us? We keep as far from others as we can.

One night, a rare, clear moonlight night, we kneel in the window. Every one else is asleep, but we kneel reading by the moonlight. It is a chapter in the prophets telling how the chosen people of God shall be carried on the gentiles' shoulders. Surely the devil might leave us alone. There is not much handle for him there. But presently he comes.

"Is it right there should be a chosen people? To him who is Father to all should not all be dear?"

How can we answer him? We were feeling so good till he came. We put our head down on the Bible and blister it with tears. Then we fold our hands over our head and pray till our teeth grind together. Oh, that from that spirit world, so real and yet so silent, that surrounds us one word would come to guide us! We are left alone with this devil, and God does not whisper to us. Suddenly we seize the Bible, turning it round and round, and say hurriedly:

"It will be God's voice speaking to us, his voice as though we heard it."

We yearn for a token from the inexorably silent One.

We turn the book, put our finger down on a page and bend to read by the moonlight. It is God's answer. We tremble:

"Then 14 years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas and took Titus with me also."

For an instant our imagination seizes it. We are twisting, twirling, trying to make an allegory. The 14 years are 14 months; we are Paul, and the devil is Barnabas; Titus is— Then a sudden loathing comes to us. We are liars and hypocrites. We are trying to deceive ourselves. What is Paul to us and Jerusalem? Who are Barnabas and Titus? We know not the men. Before we know we seize the book, swing it round our head and fling it with all our might to the farther end of the room. We put down our head again and weep. Youth and ignorance—is there anything else that can weep so? It is as though the tears were drops of blood congealed beneath the eyelids. Nothing else is like those tears. After a long time we are weak with crying and lie silent, and by chance we knock against the wood that stops the broken pane. It falls. Upon our hot, stiff face a sweet breath of wind blows. We raise our head and with our swollen eyes look out at the beautiful still world, and the sweet night wind blows in upon us, holy and gentle, like a loving breath from the lips of God. Over us a deep peace comes, a calm, still joy. The tears now flow readily and softly. Oh, the unutterable gladness! At last, at last, we have found it! "The peace with God." "The sense of sins forgiven." All doubt vanished, God's voice in the soul, the Holy Spirit filling us! We feel him, we feel him! O Jesus Christ, through you, through you, this joy! We press our hands upon our breast and look upward with adoring gladness. Soft waves of bliss break through us. "The peace with God," "The sense of sins forgiven." Methodists and revivalists say the words, and the mocking world shoots out its lip and walks by smiling—"Hypocrite!"

There are more fools and fewer hypocrites than the wise world dreams of. The hypocrite is rare as icebergs in the tropics, the fool common as buttercups beside a water furrow. Whether you go this way or that you tread on him. You dare not look at your own reflection in the water, but you see one. There is no cant phrase, rotten with age, but it was the dress of a living body, gone out at heart it signifies a real bodily or mental condition which some have passed through.

After hours and nights of frenzied fear of the supernatural desire to appease the power above, a fierce quivering excitement in every inch of nerve and blood vessel, there comes a time when nature cannot endure longer, and the spring long bent recoils. We sink down emasculated. Up creeps the deadly delicious calm:

"I have blotted out as a cloud thy sins and as a thick cloud thy trespasses and will remember them no more forever."

We weep with soft, transporting joy.

A few experience this. Many imagine they experience it. One here and there lies about it. In the main "the peace with God, a sense of sins forgiven," stands for a certain mental and physical reaction. Its reality those know who have felt it.

And we on that moonlight night put down our head on the window. "O God, we are happy, happy, thy child forever! Oh, thank you, God!" And we drop asleep.

Next morning the Bible we kiss. We are God's forever. We go out to work, and it goes happily all day, happily all night, but hardly so happily, not happily at all, the next day, and the next night the devil asks us, "Where is your Holy Spirit?"

We cannot tell.

So month by month, summer and winter, the old life goes on—reading, praying, weeping, praying. They tell us we become utterly stupid. We know it. Even the multiplication table we learned with so much care we forget. The physical world recedes farther and farther from us. Truly we love not the world, neither the things that are in it. Across the bounds of sleep our grief follows us. When we wake in the night, we are sitting up in bed weeping bitterly or find ourself outside in the moonlight dressed and walking up and down and wringing our hands, and we cannot tell how we came there. So pass two years as men reckon them.

V.

Then a new time.

Before us there were three courses possible—to go mad, to die, to sleep.

We take the last course, or nature takes it for us.

All things take rest in sleep. The beasts, birds, the very flowers, close their eyes, and the streams are still in winter. All things take rest. Then why not the human reason also? So the questioning devil in us drops asleep, and in that sleep a beautiful dream rises for us. Though you hear all the dreams of men, you will hardly find a prettier one than ours. It ran so:

In the center of all things is a Mighty Heart, which, having begotten all things, loves them, and, having born them into life, beats with great throbs of love toward them. No death for his dear insects, no hell for his dear men, no burning up for his dear world, his own, own world that he has made. In the end all will be beautiful. Do not ask us how we make our dream tally with facts. The glory of a dream is this—that it despises facts and makes its own. Our dream saves us from going mad. That is enough.

Its peculiar point of sweetness lay here. When the Mighty Heart's yearning of love became too great for other expression it shaped itself into the sweet Rose of heaven, the beloved Man god.

Jesus, you Jesus of our dream, how we loved you! No Bible tells of you as we knew you. Your sweet hands held ours fast. Your sweet voice said always "I am here, my loved one, not far off. Put your arms about me and hold fast."

We find him in everything in those days. When the little weary lamb we drive home drags its feet, we seize on it and carry it with its head against our face. His little lamb! We feel we have got him.

When the drunken Kaffir lies by the road in the sun, we draw his blanket over his head and put green branches of milk bush on it. His Kaffir—why should the sun hurt him?

In the evening, when the clouds lift themselves like gates and the red lights shine through them, we cry; for in such glory he will come, and the hands that ache to touch him will hold him, and we shall see the beautiful hair and eyes of our God. "Lift up your heads, ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, and our King of glory shall come in!"

The purple flowers, the little purple flowers, are his eyes, looking at us. We kiss them and kneel alone on the flat, rejoicing over them. And the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for him, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose.

If ever in our tearful, joyful ecstasy the poor sleepy, half dead devil should raise his head, we laugh at him. It is not his hour now.

"If there should be a hell, after all!" he mutters. "If your God should be cruel! If there should be no God! If you should find out it is all imagination! If"—

We laugh at him. When a man sits in the warm sunshine, do you ask him for proof of it? He feels; that is all. And we feel; that is all. We want no proof of our God. We feel, we feel!

We do not believe in our God because the Bible tells us of him. We believe in the Bible because he tells us of it. We feel him, we feel him, we feel; that is all. And the poor half swamped devil mutters:

"But if the day should come when you do not feel?"

And we laugh and cry him down.

"It will never come—never!" And the poor devil slinks to sleep again with his tail between his legs. Fierce assertion many times repeated is hard to stand against. Only time separates the truth from the lie. So we dream on.

One day we go with our father to town, to church. The townspeople rustle in their silks and the men in their sleek cloth and settle themselves in their pews, and the light shines in through the windows on the artificial flowers in the women's bonnets. We have the same miserable feeling that we have in a shop where all the clerks are very smart. We wish our father hadn't brought us to town and we were out on the "karroo." Then the man in the pulpit begins to preach. His text is, "He that believeth not shall be damned."

The day before the magistrate's clerk, who was an atheist, has died in the street, struck by lightning.

The man in the pulpit mentions no name, but he talks of "the hand of God made visible among us." He tells us how, when the white stroke fell, quivering and naked, the soul fled, robbed of his earthly filament, and lay at the footstool of God; how over its head has been poured out the wrath of the Mighty One, whose existence it has denied, and, quivering and terrified, it has fled to the everlasting shade.

We, as we listen, half start up. Every drop of blood in our body has rushed to our head. He lies, he lies, he lies! That man in the pulpit lies! Will no one stop him? Have none of them heard, do none of them know, that when the poor dark soul shut its eyes on earth it opened them in the still light of heaven; that there is no wrath where God's face is; that if one could once creep to the footstool of God there is everlasting peace there, like the fresh stillness of the early morning? While the atheist lay wondering and afraid God bent down and said: "My child, here I am—I, whom you have not known; I, whom you have not believed in. I am here. I sent my messenger, the white sheet lightning, to call you home. I am here."

Then the poor soul turned to the light. Its weakness and pain were gone forever.

Have they not known, have they not heard, who it is rules?

"For a little moment have I hidden my face from thee, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy upon thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer."

We mutter on to ourselves till some one pulls us violently by the arm to remind us we are in church. We see nothing but our own ideas.

Presently every one turns to pray. There are 600 souls lifting themselves to the Everlasting Light.

Behind us sit two pretty ladies. One hands her scent bottle softly to the other, and a mother pulls down her little girl's frock. One lady drops her handkerchief. A gentleman picks it up. She blushes. The women in the choir turn softly the leaves of their tune books to be ready when the praying is done. It is as though they thought more of the singing than the Everlasting Father. Oh, would it not be more worship of him to sit alone in the "karroo" and kiss one little purple flower that he had made? Is it not mockery? Then the thought comes, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" We who judge—what are we better than they? Rather worse. Is it any excuse to say, "I am but a child and must come?" Does God allow any soul to step in between the spirit he made and himself? What do we there in that place where all the words are lies against the All Father? Filled with horror, we turn and flee out of the place. On the pavement we smite our foot and swear in our child's soul never again to enter those places where men come to sing and pray. We are questioned afterward. Why was it we went out of the church?

How can we explain? We stand silent. Then we are pressed further, and we try to tell. Then a head is shaken solemnly at us. No one can think it wrong to go to the house of the Lord. It is the idle excuse of a wicked boy. When will we think seriously of our souls and love going to church? We are wicked, very wicked. And we—we slink away and go alone to cry. Will it be always so? Whether we hate and doubt or whether we believe and love, to our dearest are we to seem always wicked?

We do not yet know that in the soul's search for truth the bitterness lies here—the striving cannot always hide itself among the thoughts. Sooner or later it will clothe itself in outward action. Then it steps in and divides between the soul and what it loves. All things on earth have their price, and for truth we pay the dearest. We barter it for love and sympathy. The road to honor is paved with thorns, but on the path to truth, at every step you set your foot down on your own heart.

VI.

Then at last a new time—the time of waking, short, sharp and not pleasant, as wakings often are.

Sleep and dreams exist on this condition—that no one wake the dreamer.

And now life takes us up between her finger and thumb, shakes us furiously till our poor nodding head is well nigh rolled from our shoulders, and she sets us down a little hardly on the bare earth, bruised and sore, but preternaturally wide awake.

We have said in our days of dreaming: "Injustice and wrong are a seeming. Pain is a shadow. Our God, he is real, he who made all things, and he only is love."

Now life takes us by the neck and shows us a few other things—newmade graves with the red sand flying about them, eyes that we love with the worms eating them, evil men walking, sleek and fat, the whole terrible hurly burly of the thing called life—and she says, "What do you think of these?" We dare not say "Nothing." We feel them. They are very real. But we try to lay our hands about and feel that other thing we felt before. In the dark night in the fuel room we cry to our beautiful dream god: "Oh, let us come near you and lay our head against your feet. Now in our hour of need be near us." But he is not there. He is gone away. The old questioning devil is there.

We must have been awakened sooner or later. The imagination cannot always triumph over reality, the desire over truth. We must have been awakened. If it was done a little sharply, what matter? It was done thoroughly, and it had to be done.

VII.

And a new life begins for us, a new time, a life as cold as that of a man who sits on the pinnacle of an iceberg and sees the glittering crystals all about him. The old looks indeed like a long, hot delirium, peopled with phantasies. The new is cold enough.

Now we have no God. We have had two—the old God that our fathers handed down to us, that we hated and never liked; the new One that we made for ourselves, that we loved. But now he has flitted away from us, and we see what he was made of—the shadow of our highest ideal, crowned and throned. Now we have no God.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." It may be so. Most things said or written have been the work of fools.

This thing is certain—he is a fool who says, "No man hath said in his heart, There is no God."

It has been said many thousand times in hearts with profound bitterness of earnest faith.

We do not cry and weep. We sit down with cold eyes and look at the world. We are not miserable. Why should we be? We eat and drink and sleep all night, but the dead are not colder.

And we say it slowly, but without sighing: "Yes; we see it now. There is no God."

And, we add, growing a little colder yet: "There is no justice. The ox dies in the yoke beneath its master's whip. It turns its anguish filled eyes on the sunlight, but there is no sign of recompense to be made it. The black man is shot like a dog, and it goes well with the shooter. The innocent are accused, and the accuser triumphs. If you will take the trouble to scratch the surface anywhere, you will see under the skin a sentient being writhing in impotent anguish."

And, we say further, and our heart is as the heart of the dead for coldness: "There is no order. All things are driven about by a blind chance."

What a soul drinks in with its mother's milk will not leave it in a day. From our earliest hour we have been taught that the thought of the heart, the shaping of the raincloud, the amount of wool that grows on a sheep's back, the length of a draft and the growing of the corn depend on nothing that moves immutable, at the heart of all things; but on the changeable will of a changeable being whom our prayers can alter. To us, from the beginning, nature has been but a poor, plastic thing, to be toyed with this way or that, as man happens to please his deity or not, to go to church or not, to say his prayers right or not, to travel on a Sunday or not. Was it possible for us in an instant to see nature as she is—the flowing vestment of an unchanging reality? When a soul breaks free from the arms of a superstition, bits of the claws and talons break themselves off in him. It is not the work of a day to squeeze them out.

And so, for us, the humanlike driver and guide being gone, all existence, as we look out at it with our chilled, wondering eyes, is an aimless rise and swell of shifting waters. In all that weltering chaos we can see no spot so large as a man's hand on which we may plant our foot.

Whether a man believes in a humanlike God or no is a small thing. Whether he looks into the mental and physical world and sees no relation between cause and effect, no order but a blind chance sporting, this is the mightiest fact that can be recorded in any spiritual existence. It were almost a mercy to cut his throat, if indeed he does not do it for himself.

We, however, do not cut our throats. To do so would imply some desire and feeling, and we have no desire and no feeling. We are only cold. We do not wish to live, and we do not wish to die. One day a snake curls itself round the waist of a Kaffir woman. We take it in our hand, swing it round and round and fling it on the ground—dead. Every one looks at us with eyes of admiration. We almost laugh. Is it wonderful to risk that for which we care nothing?

In truth, nothing matters. This dirty little world full of confusion, and the blue rag stretched overhead for a sky is so low we could touch it with our hand.

Existence is a great pot, and the old fate who stirs it round cares nothing what rises to the top and what goes down and laughs when the bubbles burst. And we do not care. Let it boil about. Why should we trouble ourselves? Nevertheless the physical sensations are real. Hunger hurts, and thirst; therefore we eat and drink. Inaction pains us; therefore we work like galley slaves. No one demands it, but we set ourselves to build a great dam in red sand beyond the graves.

In the gray dawn before the sheep are let out we work at it. All day, while the young ostriches we tend feed about us, we work on through the fiercest heat. The people wonder what new spirit has seized us now. They do not know we are working for life. We bear the greatest stones and feel a satisfaction when we stagger under them and are hurt by a pang that shoots through our chest. While we eat our dinner we carry on baskets full of earth, as though the devil drove us. The Kaffir servants have a story that at night a witch and two white oxen come to help us. No wall, they say, could grow so quickly under one man's hands.

At night, alone in our cabin, we sit no more brooding over the fire. What should we think of now? All is emptiness. So we take the old arithmetic, and the multiplication table, which with so much pains we learned long ago and forgot directly, we learn now in a few hours and never forget again. We take a strange satisfaction in working arithmetical problems. We pause in our building to cover the stones with figures and calculations. We save money for a Latin grammar and an algebra and carry them about in our pockets, poring over them as over our Bible of old. We have thought we were utterly stupid, incapable of remembering anything, of learning anything. Now we find that all is easy. Has a new soul crept into this old body, that even our intellectual faculties are changed? We marvel, not perceiving that what a man expends in prayer and ecstasy he cannot have over for acquiring knowledge. You never shed a tear or create a beautiful image or quiver with emotion but you pay for it at the practical, calculating end of your nature. You have just so much force. When the one channel runs over, the other runs dry.

And now we turn to Nature. All these years we have lived beside her, and we have never seen her. Now we open our eyes and look at her.

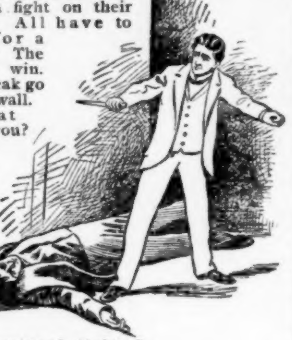
The rocks have been to us a blur of brown. We bend over them, and the disorganized masses dissolve into a many colored, many shaped, carefully arranged form of existence, here masses of rainbow tinted crystals half fused together, there bands of smooth gray and red methodically overlying each other. This rock here is covered with a delicate silver tracery, in some mineral resembling leaves and branches. There on the flat stone, on which we so often have sat to weep and pray, we look down and see it covered with the fossil footprints of great birds and the beautiful skeleton of a fish. We have often tried to picture in our mind what the fossiled remains of creatures must be like, and all the while we sat on them. We have been so blinded by thinking and feeling that we have never seen the world.

The flat plain has been to us a reach of monotonous red. We look at it, and every handful of sand starts into life. That wonderful people, the ants, we learn to know; see them make war and peace, play and work, and build their huge palaces. And that smaller people we make acquaintance with who live in the flowers. The bitto flower has been for us a mere blur of yellow. We find its heart composed of a hundred perfect flowers, the homes of the tiny black people with red stripes, who move in and out in that little yellow city. Every bluebell has its inhabitant. Every day the "karroo" shows us a new wonder sleeping in its teeming bosom. On our way to work we pause and stand to see the ground spider make its trap, bury itself in the sand and then wait for the falling in of its enemy. Farther on walks a horned beetle, and near him starts open the door of a spider, who peeps out carefully and quickly pulls it down again. On a "karroo" bush a green fly is laying her silver eggs. We carry them home and see the shells pierced, the spotted grub come out, turn to a green fly and flit away.

We are not satisfied with what Nature shows us and will see something for ourselves. Under the white hen we put a dozen eggs and break one daily to see the white spot wax into the chicken. We are not excited or enthusiastic about it. But a man is not to lay his throat open. He must think of something. So we plant seeds in rows on our dam wall and pull one up daily to see how it goes with them. Alladeen buried her wonderful stone, and a golden palace sprang up at her feet. We do far more. We put a brown seed in the earth, and a living thing starts out—starts upward—why, no more than Alladeen can we say—starts upward, and does not desist till it is higher than our heads, sparkling with dew in the early morning, glittering with yellow blossoms, shaking brown seeds with little embryo souls on to the ground. We look at it solemnly from the time it consists of two leaves peeping above the ground and a soft white root till we have to raise our faces to look at it, but we find no reason for that upward starting.

We look into the dead ducks and lambs. In the evening we carry them home, spread newspapers on the floor and lie working with them till midnight. With a startled feeling near akin to ecstasy we open the lump of flesh called a heart and find little doors and strings inside. We feel them and put the heart away, but every now and then return to look and to feel them again. Why we like them so we can hardly tell.

(Continued next week.)



Married.

In this city, Dec. 12, Frank E. Tracy to Miss Lily M. Trask.

In Amherst, Dec. 3, Edward Herman Butler of Amherst, to Miss Mattie Belle Spencer of Brewer.

In Andover, Dec. 5, John W. Thompson to Mrs. Annie E. Brown, both of Rumford.

In Bath, Dec. 7, H. J. Cantelo to Miss Elsie M. Pushard.

In Belfast, Nov. 29, Fred W. Thomas to Miss Eva G. Patterson.

In Biddeford, Nov. 30, Thomas Mason to Miss Blanche Wedgewood.

In Brewer, Nov. 29, Gideon E. Mayo to Miss Georgia M. Severance.

In Brooksville, Dec. 2, Dallas S. Carter to Miss Angie M. Hooper, both of Sedgwick.

In Brownfield, Dec. 6, Frank Everett Fessenden, to Miss Flora Gertrude Blake, both of Brownfield.

In Bucksport, Dec. 2, Frank L. Mead to Miss Millicent L. Lawrence, both of Bucksport.

In Buxton, Nov. 30, H. E. Meserve to Miss C. B. Shordon.

In Camden, Nov. 29, Albert Hunter to Miss Cora Giles.

In Carthage, Nov. 30, Otis Wyman of Rumford, to Miss Gertrude E. Morton of Rumford Falls.

In Castine, Dec. 4, Rowland H. Mills to Miss Helen A. Bartram, both of Castine.

In Chesterville, Dec. 1, Bert Freeman Nichols to Miss Nellian L. Morse.

In Cumberland Centre, Nov. 29, William A. True to Miss Cora Fennell of Gray.

In Cutler, Dec. 1, Pilsbury F. Dinsmore of Whiting, to Miss Hattie G. Corbett of Cutler.

In Dennysville, Dec. 2, Rollins Preston to Miss Mary S. Clark Preston, both of Edmunds.

In Dover, Nov. 29, Alna C. Gilbert to Miss Inez Mabel Chandler of Monson.

In East Holden, Nov. 30, Herbert A. Holyoke of Brewer, to Miss Alice Bates of Holden.

In Eastport, Nov. 28, William A. Wilson of Deer Island, N. B., to Miss Theresa McLeanan of Eastport; Nov. 29, John Morgan to Mrs. Eliza A. Antone, both of Eastport; Nov. 30, James A. McCurdy to Miss Mary E. Sullivan, both of Eastport; Nov. 29, Howard W. Collins to Miss Olive M. Farris, both of Eastport; Dec. 2, William A. Hurley to Miss Jean Grant, both of Eastport; Dec. 2, Charles F. Fenlason to Mrs. Margaret J. Savage, both of Eastport.

In Ellsworth, Dec. 2, Fred E. Moore to Miss Malinda Emerson, both of Ellsworth; Dec. 2, William Richardson of North Ellsworth, to Miss Claudia M. Seeds of North Ellsworth.

In Eustis, Dec. 2, C. William Buchanan to Miss Rosa Hinkley, both of Eustis.

In Franklin, Nov. 30, Carlton S. Donnell to Miss Maida L. Gerrish, both of Franklin; Nov. 30, William Frederick Henderson of Mt. Desert, to Miss Grace Coombs Goodwin of Franklin; Nov. 30, Harry Guy Somes of Mt. Desert, to Miss Eva Eugenia Goodwin of Franklin.

In Freeport, Nov. 30, Fred Morse to Miss Belle Lambert.

In Gorham, N. H., Dec. 6, George Augherton to Emily Dickson, both of Gorham.

In Gray, Nov. 27, Francis R. Leavitt of Raymond to Miss Mary E. Hancock of Gray; H. P. Davis of Gorham to Miss Maud S. Mayberry of Windham.

In Hampden, Nov. 28, William H. Doane to Miss Carrie Louise Reed.

In Hancock, Nov. 30, Albert L. Jewett to Miss Elsie M. Moon, both of Franklin.

In Holden, Nov. 30, Herbert A. Holyoke of Brewer to Miss Alice Bates of Bucksport.

In Jackson, Nov. 29, Wilbur Boyd to Miss Nellie F. Webber.

In Jefferson, Dec. 2, Lewis Gallop to Miss Sabra Hannon, both of Jefferson.

In Lebanon, Nov. 29, Edwin Wilson Mace of Acton to Miss Ethel Edna Murray of Shapleigh.

In Lewiston, Dec. 4, Elihu Pike to Miss Mary Begin, both of Oxford.

In Lubec, Dec. 2, B. M. Blackwood to Miss Margie L. Brawn.

In Machias, Dec. 10, George W. Nugent of Machias to Ann Riordan of Glassindale, Mass.

In Mattawamkeag, Dec. 2, John Smith to Miss C. A. Gallop.

In Mechanic Falls, Nov. 30, Arthur Strout to Iona Welch, both of Mechanic Falls.

In Monson, Nov. 29, Charles H. Wyman to Lillie Maud White.

In Naples, Nov. 30, George Libby to Helen Dunn, both of Naples.

In Newcastle, Dec. 5, Rufus L. Hall to Myra McNear.

In Newport, Nov. 29, William B. Reed to Miss Eva A. Vinal.

In North Brooksville, Nov. 29, Benjamin Thomas Nichols to Miss Caddie E. Jones, both of Brooksville.

In North Warren, Nov. 20, Webster E. Benner of Waldoboro to Myrtle L. Merry of North Warren.

In Norway, Nov. 29, Lester I. Harriman of Portland to Lutie Bennett of Norway.

In Pittsfield, Nov. 28, Nelson T. Maloon of Burnham to Miss J. Blanche Libby of Pittsfield.

In Portland, Nov. 30, D. J. Donovan to Miss Sadie M. P. Ward.

In Rangeley, Dec. 3, Reuben Ross of Rangeley to Miss Jennie Campbell of Dead River Station.

In Rockland, Dec. 4, Oliver B. Brown to Ivy Blake.

In Rumford Falls, Dec. 7, Roswell E. House to Miss Rose Goodwin, both of Rumford.

In Sebago Lake, Dec. 2, Weston Oswell Charles of Gorham to Hattie May Parker of Sebago Lake.

In South Eliot, Nov. 29, Albert W. Staples to Miss Mary O. Williams.

In South Jefferson, Dec. 1, Wm. C. Ford of Whitefield to Miss Sarah B. Erskine of Jefferson.

In South Paris, Dec. 6, Eugene A. Briggs to Nora F. Whitney, both of South Paris.

In South Portland, Nov. 30, Harry E. Harris of Lewisburg, Pa., to Miss Mildred O. Dyer of South Portland; Dec. 3, Albert Stevens to Miss Flora Brown, both of Cape Elizabeth.

In Stonington, Nov. 30, Albert H. Bray to Miss Alice M. Smith, both of Stonington.

In Union, Nov. 29, George F. Thomas to Miss Effie M. Coggan.

In Washington, Nov. 26, Samuel F. Weaver to Miss Augusta F. Spear.

In West Eden, Dec. 3, Abiathan L. Richardson of Mount Desert to Miss Grace A. Gray of Eden.

In Woodstock, Dec. 3, Ernest R. Curtis of Woodstock to Miss Lucy I. Swan of Greenwood.

In Yarmouth, Nov. 29, Arthur F. Bennett to Miss Lois Myrtle Stoddard.

Died.

In this city, Dec. 2, Mrs. Amanda P. Merrill.

In Bangor, Dec. 4, Annie P., wife of Parlin H. Bonzey, of Ellsworth, aged 48 years.

In Beddington, Dec. 8, Louisa, wife of Charles Farnsworth, aged 58 years.

In Belfast, Nov. 29, Capt. Joseph S. Thombs, aged 65 years, 3 months; Nov. 30, James L. Colcord, aged 64 years, 1 month; Dec. 2, Mrs. Christiana F. Morison, aged 74 years, 8 months.

In Biddeford, Dec. 3, Mrs. Alice M. Sutherland, aged 35 years.

In Buxton, Dec. 4, James M. Hopkinson, aged 66 years, 5 months; Dec. 6, Abigail, widow of Gardiner Flood, aged 83 years.

In Chesterville, Dec. 4, Newel Maddocks of Blabon Hill, aged 21 years, 6 months.

In Dennysville, Dec. 1, Benjamin Lincoln, aged 66 years, 11 months.

In Dorchester, Dec. 2, Sarah, widow of Hall J. Libby, aged 68 years, 4 months.

In Eastport, Dec. 3, James Shiels, aged 59 years, 3 months.

In East Sumner, Dec. 2, Mrs. Betsey Briggs, aged nearly 74 years.

In Eden, Nov. 30, Mrs. Jessie Halliday Stafford, aged 29 years, 10 months.

In Farmington, Dec. 2, Mrs. Sarah E., wife of Charles L. Smith, aged 74 years, 8 months.

In Franklin, Dec. 3, Amos W. Scammon, aged 85 years.

In Hebron, Dec. 2, Cyrus Bucknam, aged 65 years, 7 months.

In Hiram, Dec. 2, Isaac E. Osgood, aged 64 years; Dec. 3, Mrs. Mary A., wife of Charles Stuart, aged 26 years.

In Kennebunk, Dec. 1, Miss Caroline Came, aged 71 years; Dec. 5, Abner Boothby, aged 75 years; Dec. 6, Mary, wife of B. Talmer Hill, aged about 40 years.

In Knox, Dec. 4, Achsa (Vose), wife of Ralph E. Freeman, aged 25 years.

In Lubec, Dec. 1, Harvey, son of Mr. and Mrs. James McFadden, aged 17 years.

In Machias, Dec. 10, Leander H. Stevens, Jr., aged 20 years, 9 months.

In Mechanic Falls, Dec. 1, Mrs. Emily Putney, wife of E. S. Berry, aged 68 years.

In New Gloucester, Dec. 9, Ernest G. True.

In New Sharon, Nov. 26, Mrs. George Hopkins, aged 85 years.

In North Saco, Dec. 1, Mrs. Olive J. Libby.

In Oxford, Dec. 3, Calvin Roberts, aged 53 years.

In Paris, Dec. 11, Elsie F., wife of O. G. Pratt, aged about 42 years.

In Penobscot, Dec. 4, Capt. James Sellers, aged 81 years.

In Portland, Dec. 4, William Jefferds, aged 48 years, 11 months; Dec. 4, George C. Peters, aged 69 years; Dec. 5, Ann M. Garvin, aged 70 years, 3 months; Dec. 6, Rebecca S., wife of John Mills, aged 66 years, 11 months; Dec. 7, James Herbert, aged 60 years; Dec. 9, Capt. William Marshman, aged 66 years 10 months; Dec. 9, Eliza Jane Googins, aged 63 years, 5 months; Dec. 9, Nathaniel E. Perron, aged 48 years; Dec. 10, Frank Edwin Jones, aged 19 years, 1 month; Dec. 10, Alice Gertrude Kelly, aged 3 years, 4 months.

In Rangeley, Nov. 29, Mrs. Andrew J. Haley.

In Rumford Falls, Dec. 4, Flora, infant daughter of Joseph LaBelle, aged 3 months.

In Scarboro, Dec. 5, Mrs. Abbie E. Frost, widow of Roscoe Libby; Dec. 8, John L. Best, aged 59.

In South Buxton, Dec. 7, Lydia A., wife of L. J. Milliken, aged 79 years, 1 month.

In Standish, Dec. 7, Ella M., wife of Chandler W. Harmon, aged 30 years, 5 months.

In Strong, Nov. 29, Mrs. Joseph Morse, aged 54 years, 11 months.

In Temple, Dec. 3, Mrs. Philinda N., widow of Gideon K. Staples, aged 71 years, 2 months.

In Wesley, Dec. 4, Diantha, wife of James Love, aged 65 years.

In West Minot, Dec. 1, Thomas Merrill.

In Wilton, Dec. 5, Mrs. John Miller.

In Windham, Dec. 1, Sydney H. Haskell, aged 60 years, 5 months.

Home Department.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

He stood high up on a wind swept crest,
This vigorous, stout young pine,
And drank the air of the east and west
And bathed in the glad sunshine.
His roots reached down to the rock below;
His top to the stars aspired.
He knew but a longing to grow and grow
Till all of the wood admired.

Alas, when the leaves of the forest round
Were scattered from shrubs and trees
And the pine beheld on the nearby ground
The tribute the fall decrees,
Appeared some men with a shining ax
That bit at the sturdy stem,
And when in glee they retraced their tracks
They carried the pine with them!

"Goodby to the wind and the friendly sun!
Goodby to the dew and rain!
I would I had lived till my work was done,
But I've grown and hoped in vain."
Yet the end was not, for they set him straight
And stiff in a corner tight
And hastened his branches to decorate
With candles and tinsel bright—

Till, lo, at the eve of a Christmas day
Was given the last, last touch,
And a lad and a lass, with faces gay,
Came, marveling, wondering much,
So the heart of the pine ere life was sped
Thrilled deep with a joyous thought,
"I have blessed an hour of a child," he said.
"I have lived nor died for naught."
—*Edwin L. Sabin.*

Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare.
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,
Himself, his hungering neighbor and Me.
—*James Russell Lowell.*

SAVED BY A CARESS.

"A kiss saved me!" Immediately every face bent forward. Richly, daintily-clad women and moneyed men filled the spacious room; but the silence that followed that statement could be felt, so eager were they to catch every word. Some one had spoken lightly of the trifles that so surely make up the sum of happiness or woe. Trifles count for nothing, they thought; it is the great events that determine the destinies of men for good or ill. It was this that had drawn forth the statement and the explanation that followed. "I know nothing," he continued, "of my parents or the circumstances of my birth. Nothing in all the bitter past clings so close to memory as the certainty that I belong to nobody and nobody belongs to me. In one of our large cities, in a locatity where there are many little homeless ones, where baseness is the ruling element, I may or may not have had my birth, at least, that was the first I knew of myself. Poverty isn't so hard if we've some one to love us; but no one cared for me, and all the days were alike, and the nights seemed an eternity of time. There is a bitterness of sorrow in the lives of the homeless of which God can only know. The snow had fallen and the cold March winds were blowing, leaving us no choice, except the sunniest side of the dismal street in which we found shelter. I, with others whose years are few, and whose homes are anywhere, had sought the sunniest side, when a lady paused beside us, smoothed back my tangled locks and kissed me. That was the first caress I had known, and it saved me. I slept somewhere that night, and unlike all other nights that had preceded it, I was neither cold nor weary. The hand reached down to lift me up from the depths never unclasped its hold. Angels sang their sweetest songs through the long hours; the rapturous refrain echoes in my soul to-night. It was years before I grew out of that life to a better one; but whether I had where to lay my head or not, I knew no weariness. The warm glow of a perfect day lighted all the future, and in every dark hour I felt the presence of a light foot-fall, the soft touch of a hand. Out of the pure depths of her pitying womanhood she kissed me. It was a trifling thing indeed, to kiss a homeless, friendless child; but because of that kiss, and with the Father's help, I stand to-day upon a firm basis of an honorable manhood."—*Christian at Work.*

THE TYPICAL OLD MAID OF TO-DAY.

The time has long since gone by when the term "old maid" implies disgrace.

There is no freer creature in our land than the maiden woman, who is no longer doomed to a life of dependence in the house of some one of her numerous relatives. She is free to enter any profession or vocation of life, can spend her money as she pleases, can keep house or exercise her own sweet will. In fact, there are few things that she cannot do, and the best of it is that she is truly an independent creature. She may be a writer of books, edit a newspaper and can always demand a position as a competent type-writer or stenographer. It is far wiser and better to be a happy old maid than a miserable, wretched wife, as some women are. Do you think I am advocating the theory that the old maid is far better off and happier than the wife? A happy marriage is undoubtedly the most perfect state to live in and the Creator intended that, but I do say most emphatically, these perfectly happy unions are few and far between, and rather than marry a man for a home or to be taken care of, or simply for the sake of being married, as so many do, I would be an old maid all the days of my life. Because a person does not marry is no reason why he or she need be crabbed, morose or ill tempered. Indeed they are quite as likely to be jolly and lively as many wives or husbands. The old maid of today is often envied by her married friends, and she is not, as she was once pictured in all the newspapers, tall, angular and forbidding in appearance, but the very personification of everything that is good and true and lovely. It may have been from choice, and it may have been from duty that they have never married, but whatever the cause, they are to be admired as a class for devoting themselves to the duties lying nearest to them. Who has done more than they for our country? As nurses, authors, or in whatever position duty called them they have been faithful in the little things as well as the great. Many of my warmest and truest friends are among the single women. Society is so constituted that there are a certain number of women who cannot marry and they are termed by some people as "superfluous" women. But for them life would lose much of its sunshine and brightness. I feel like sighing quite often, "if there were only more of these noble women to make the world better." God bless the single women of our land! —*Carrie M. Ashton.*

RULES FOR HOSPITALITY.

Do not intrude into your hostess's affairs.

Go direct when the call or visit is ended.

Do not make a hobby of personal infirmities.

Do not overdo the matter of entertainment.

Do not forget bathing facilities for the guest.

"Make yourself at home," but not too much so.

In ministering to the guest do not forget the family.

Do not make unnecessary work for others, even servants.

Do not gossip; there are better things in life to think about.

Let no member of the family intrude in the guest chamber.

Conform to the custom of the house, especially as to meals.

Be courteous, but not to the extent of surrendering principles.

When several guests are present, give a share of attention to all.

Introduce games or diversion, but only such as are agreeable.

Better simple food with pleasure than luxuries with annoyance and worry.

Have a comfortable room in readiness, adapted to the needs and tastes of the guest.

A guest need not accept every proposed entertainment; he should be considerate of himself and host.

Learn the likes and dislikes of those who are to be entertained, but not through the medium of an imperative catechism.—*Ex.*

ACTS, NOT BELIEF, THE TRUE CRITERION.

"I would rather be an agnostic, and live a life of truly unselfish and Christlike endeavor, than sign all the creeds and attend a fashionable church twice every Sunday, and yet live a selfish and grasping life, isolated from my fellowmen." That statement was made recently by Rev. Dr. W. H. P. Faunce, the new president of Brown University, at a meeting of the Baptist Social Union in Boston. It is a broadminded, liberal declaration, and speaks well for the sturdy strength of character of the man who is expected to lift Brown University above the petty plane upon which it has recently stood. It is a doctrine of true Christianity, which it will do the young men at the college much good to hear preached. The day of creeds and dogmas is fast going by, and it is being more and more generally accepted that what a man does is of greater importance than what he believes. The life given to earnest, helpful effort; the spirit that has the true Christlike sympathy with humanity, is the life that is well lived and the spirit that brings salvation. Abou Ben Adhem was not writ down as one who loved the Lord, but because he loved his fellow-men his name led all the rest. That is the spirit which Dr. Faunce would encourage, and it is those who can live and act in that spirit who will accomplish the most good for the world.—*Worcester Gazette.*

NATURE'S SOVEREIGN REMEDY.

"I don't know how many times," said a young father, "I have heard my seven-year-old son say from his little bed to his mother sitting beside him: 'Mamma, my tooth aches,' and I don't know how many times I have heard his mother say to him (he never will let her do anything for him and all she can do is to sit by him and soothe him): 'Well, dear, why don't you go to sleep? If you'd go to sleep it would stop aching.' Some how this always seems very funny to me, though the little 'un takes it very seriously and I believe his mother does too. Pretty soon I hear him say to his mother, 'Will it stop aching if I go to sleep?' and I hear his mother say, 'Yes, dear,' and after a while everything is quiet, and then I know that the youngster has taken nature's infallible cure for the toothache—and for many others of the aches and ills of life—he has gone to sleep."—*New York Sun.*

The signs are not few that, in spite of wars and tumults and the bitterness of strife between men, the world does move toward the reign of peace and good-will; and the signs are many, to those who choose to see them, that the Christ who was in Bethlehem, in the lowliest of surroundings and the most unpretentious conditions, is in the world to-day, clad in humility and clothed in the garb of obscurity. * * * The world was never so full of humble, unostentatious, Christian service as to-day. Beneath the uproar of contending principles and the clash of opposing forces, which seem sometimes to fill the whole world with the tumult of their antagonisms, there is another world, full of pain and sorrow and heavy with care, but full also of the sweetness of sacrifice, the joy of surrender, and the peace of unselfishness. In this silent world live and move men and women of all social grades and conditions, with little in common save a beautiful spirit of self-surrender, and that modesty of nature which shrinks from praise because praise seems undeserved. He who looks for the Christ in this world will find him in numberless homes and in countless lives.—*Outlook.*

An Englishman visting this country says:

"The one drawback to American hospitality is that it is apt to be too profuse. I have more than once had to offer a mild protest against being entertained by a hard-working brother journalist on a scale that would have befitted a millionaire. The possibility of returning the compliment in kind affords the canny Scott but poor consolation. A dinner three times more lavish and expensive than you want is not sweetened by the thought that you may, in turn, give your host a dinner three times more expensive and lavish than he wants. It seems to me, on the whole, that in this country the millionaire is too commonly allowed to fix the standard of expenditure. Society would not be less, but more agreeable if, instead of always emulating the splendors of Lucullus, people now and then studied the art of Horatian frugality."

The finest one can give is always himself. "The gift without the giver is bare." You may not have one dollar to spend, but you can carry sunshine if your face is bright and your manner is sympathetic and your heart is genuinely loving. Not in purple or fine-twined linen, not in silver or gold, not in any perishable earthly commodity inheres the elixir of the Christmas joy; it is finer, subtler, sweeter, than aught money can buy; it is distilled from a heart "at leisure from itself," and over it angels have chanted "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good-will to men."—*Margaret E. Sangster.*

In 1868 President Johnson made Christmas Day memorable by issuing a proclamation granting full pardon to every one who had taken part in the rebellion.

Young Folks.

LITTLE BRIDGET'S COUNTRY WEEK.

BY LUCY LARCOM.

Through the bleak December day
Little pale-faced Bridget lay
On her shabby trundle-bed,
Covered with a threadbare spread.

Little Bridget lay alone,
Trying not to cry or moan
For her mother, who must stay
Out at work the livelong day.

Poor the room was, poor and plain;
But the narrow window pane
Let her out into free air,
Into landscapes wide and fair.

Out beyond the dreary street
Sped her fancy's flying feet,
Over hillside, meadow, dell,
Ah! she knew it all so well!

Once, when summer days were long,
Once, when she was brisk and strong,
Kind hands bore her far away
Into the green fields to play.

Oh, the happy Country Week,
When the children went to seek
Flowers and sunshine on the hills,
Far away from city ills!

Little Bridget lived it over;
Smelt again the sweet red clover;
Watched the frisky squirrels play,
Fed the birds and tossed the hay.

All the beautiful wild flowers
Came to cheer her lonesome hours;
Smiling, one by one, they came—
Blossoms she had learned to name.

Hardhack, with its pale, pink spire;
Cardinals, flashing crimson fire;
Golden daisies, through the bars
Shining up at her, like stars.

Once more, on the river's breast
Large white lilies swayed in rest;
Waved for her the meadow-sweet;
Pussy-clover brushed her feet.

Once again her footsteps turn
Towards the woodlands, fresh with fern;
Up the hill and down the lane;
'Twas the Country Week again.

Little Bridget's eyes were bright
When her mother came that night.
"Thoughts have wings," she said, "and I
With them through the window fly."

"I forgot the cold," she said,
"I forgot my aching head,
While I wander, long, long hours
As I used to, gathering flowers."

Brighter little Bridget's eyes
Shone with wonder and surprise,
Gazing on her window pane
When the morning dawned again.

Who had been there in the night,
Tracing, all in outlines white,
Blossoms, ferns and feathery grass
On her little square of glass?

Nodding harebells, daisy-stars,
Pine-clad cliffs, and even the bars
That she used to clamber through
Into fields where lilies grew.

Down the chill gray dawning fell
Echoes of a Christmas bell!
Little Bridget scarce could speak,
But a flush suffused her cheek

And her heart with joy grew faint.
"Mother, did the angels paint
Flowers and ferns I used to see
For a Christmas gift to me?

"More than common flowers they seem;
Mine in many a happy dream
They have been before; they grow
In the fields of heaven, I know.

"In my dreams they bloom so fair,
And the little children there
With me lovely blossoms seek—
Heaven is like the Country Week."

THE DOLLS THAT WENT AWAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

GRACE M. AUSTIN.

"Why mother," said Mrs. Merwin, a few days before Christmas, "Alice has eleven dolls now, and with all these new ones that have been sent for her Christmas presents she will have twenty-five. They will be all over the house."

"Well," grandma answered, mildly, "she is fond of them, and there are so many relatives to give them to her. Still it does seem as if she would have almost too many."

"If she would consent to give some away," said Mrs. Merwin, thoughtfully, "I believe Miss Ida, the deaconess, would know what to do with them. I think I shall try a plan I have in mind."

When Alice went to breakfast next morning her eleven dolls were sitting in a row on a sofa in the dining-room, and the largest doll held a letter in her lap directed to "Miss Alice Merwin." Very much surprised, Alice opened and read it, for it was written in a plain hand:—

DEAR MAMMA ALICE: We have heard that a great many dolls are coming to live with you soon, some very lovely ones, too. Miss Ida, the 'black-and-white lady,' has told us about ever so many little girls who never had a pretty doll, but would like one very much. So ten of us want to go with her and find some of those little girls. One of us will stay with you to keep you company till the Christmas dolls come. Please let us go, dear mamma.

YOUR LOVING DOLLS.

P. S. Dolly Varden would like to stay with you."

Alice was so astonished with this letter that she hardly knew what to say, but she caught up Dolly Varden with her red cloak and ribbons and hugged her, as much as to say she was glad one doll wanted to stay.

"Well, mamma," she said at last, "it seems kind of dreadful to have ten dollies go away at once, but it is too bad about those little girls that haven't any dollies. I suppose I'll have to let them go."

She said it in a rather mournful voice, but while she was eating mamma planned so delightfully how they would spend all that rainy day getting those ten dolls ready to go traveling, that before long Alice was laughing and planning too.

Then how busily they worked—washing and ironing, mending and making clothes for those ten dolls. Mamma had sent a note after breakfast to Miss Ida, the sweet-faced "black-and-white lady," as Alice called her, and just before tea the deaconess came.

There in a large box lay the ten dolls—black ones, white ones; large and small dolls; two with real hair, and one that would open and shut her eyes. Each had her name plainly written on a card and pinned to her dress.

"They would feel so badly not to be called by their own names," Alice said. After they were packed she had looked once longingly at them, but she hugged Dolly Varden very tight, and tried to think how dreadful it would be never to have had a doll.

Miss Ida looked carefully at the dolls, but Alice soon turned away.

"I'm afraid I mustn't look at them very long, Miss Ida," she said, "for I do love those dollies so much. But I want those poor children to have them, too."

Miss Ida smiled, and bent to kiss her, before she carried the dollies away.

When Christmas came there were fourteen dolls, of every kind you can think of, for Alice. She dressed and undressed them, and named them, and was in the midst of a splendid play when Miss Ida came to the door. Then the new dolls were forgotton, and Alice placed her little chair close to Miss Ida to hear about the old dolls.

"When this Christmas morning came, Alice," Miss Ida said, "three little girls that have been ill for weeks and weeks, two in very poor homes and one in a hospital, all found dolls beside their beds—the very first dolls they ever owned. Don't you think that they were happy?

"Then in a tenement house that I know of three little children live in one room. Their mother is dead and a sister only thirteen years old takes all the care of them, for the father works too hard to help her much. Think of the fun these mites are having with a real dolly apiece, and think how their pleasure helps that sister!"

"Why didn't you give her one?" Alice said.

"I am afraid she is too busy," Miss Ida answered, smiling; "she has to cook, and scrub, and wash and iron, and sew."

"Why! why!" cried Alice. "And only four years older than I am!"

Miss Ida went on: "Last week I walked down a narrow street where very poor people live, and in a cold, windy corner I saw four ragged bits of children 'playing dolls" they said. And what do you suppose they had? Old dry carrots wrapped in paper bags! I thought then that if I could do it they should have real dolls for Christmas. And now they have them, sent by you. I wish you could have seen the queer way they tried to thank me, nodding and hugging the dolls."

Alice could hardly wait until Miss Ida had finished to ask her questions about the ten children, their names, and how they looked. When she had learned all she could, she drew a long breath and said:

"Miss Ida, I really believe those old dollies make me happier than the new ones."—*Zion's Herald.*

TOO WARM FOR SANTA CLAUS.

Little Bob had been so anxious for Christmas to come again that every few days all summer he had asked his mamma if it would not come to-morrow or next day, or certainly not later than the day after. Over and over his mother told him that Santa Claus traveled in a sleigh, and could only come in cold weather, when the snow would fall.

One morning in the fall when it suddenly turned quite chilly Bob's mother said at breakfast:

"We must have the furnace lighted today—it is cold."

"Oh, mamma, don't do that!" said little Bob hastily.

"Why not, Bob," asked his father

"Because," said Bob, "Santa Clause has been waiting for snow all summer so he could use his sleigh, and if you make it warm now he never *will* come again."—*Youth and Home.*

Dear Boys and Girls: It has been a long time since I have written for the children's column and I see it is so with most of our young writers. I think we ought to write often to encourage one another and to make the column interesting to all. My school has been keeping two weeks but I have been at home with a cold. My birthday is a week from tomorrow. I am eleven years old. I don't expect any birthday present as it is so near Christmas. We expect to have a tree at grange hall as usual. We always have a nice tree, well laden with presents and supper after. As you will learn by the *Maine Farmer*, the grange is famous for suppers and a good time. My brother and I have written a list of things that we would like Christmas so our parents can choose from the lists what they think we would like best, and are most useful. My brother often gets carpenter's tools. I would like to hear from my friend Miss Jennie Albee, by the way of the *Maine Farmer*.

Yours truly,
JENNIE M. CARLETON.

ITEMS AND INCIDENTS.

So Many People are Exposed to rain, cold and storms, that it is necessary that they should have something to counteract the effects. A mixture of a teaspoonful of PAIN-KILLER in water sweetened, will stimulate the system and ward off any possibility of cold. It has been used for sixty years all over the world, and millions testify to its sterling worth. There is but one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis'. Price 25c. and 50c.

"My wife has gilded our lawnmower and put it in the parlor window."

"What's that for?"

"She says she wants the neighbors to see that at last we are getting the use of it ourselves."

"Look before you leap." Be sure you get Hood's Sarsaparilla when you call for it, and you will find health in its use.

"This ham"—It was the new boarder who spoke, and his words were listened to with breathless interest. "This ham must have been cured by Christian Science."—*Baltimore American.*

If the Baby Is Cutting Teeth,
be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhœa. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

The military obsession. Superintendent: "Yes, and where did John the Baptist live?" Scholar: "In the desert." Superintendent: "Quite right! And what do we call people who live in the desert?" Scholar: "Deserters."

To Cure Constipation Forever.
Take Cascarets Candy Cathartic. 10c or 25c. If C. C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

Uncle Hiram (watching steeplechase for first time)—"Naw, I know what crooked racin' is! Every darn one uv them jockeys is tryin' to lose the race!"

Nephew—"What makes you think that?"

Uncle Hiram—"What are they jumpin' them little fences fer, when they could ride around them just as well?"

Beauty Is Blood Deep.
Clean blood means a clean skin. No beauty without it. Cascarets, Candy Cathartic clean your blood and keep it clean, by stirring up the lazy liver and driving all impurities from the body. Begin to-day to banish pimples, boils, blotches, blackheads, and that sickly bilious complexion by taking Cascarets,—beauty for ten cents. All druggists, satisfaction guaranteed, 10c, 25c, 50c.

Little Dot was very fond of Bible stories, and one day after her mother had read the story of Lot's wife she asked, "Mamma, what did Mr. Lot do when his wife was turned into a pillar of salt?"

"What do you think he did?" asked mamma.

"Why," replied the practial little miss, "I s'pose he went out and hunted up a fresh one."—*Chicago News.*

GREATEST PREMIUM OFFER OF THE YEAR.

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WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION is the Queen of Home Magazines. It is printed on fine paper and profusely illustrated. It gives 32 to 44 pages a month, each page 11 by 16 inches, and a new and beautiful cover in colors every issue. Its editors and contributors are the most popular American writers; in short, it is an ideal family magazine, magnificently illustrated. Its regular departments are edited by experts and are full of interest. As a home magazine it has no superiors and few, if any, equals. The regular price is one dollar a year, and it has over 325,000 subscribers. For a free sample copy address the Woman's Home Companion, Springfield, Ohio.

The publishers of the above paper, in order to introduce it to the readers of the MAINE FARMER, have made us an unusually low price, which enables us to make the above grand clubbing offer. REMEMBER, the *Maine Farmer* gives the Dewey Book absolutely free as an inducement for new subscribers and renewals when they order both the *Maine Farmer* and the Woman's Home Companion. The price, $1.50, is *very* low indeed for the two papers alone, and the whole offer is the most liberal we have ever made. If you have already paid in advance, take advantage of this great offer anyhow, and your subscription will be extended one year from the present date of expiration. We want every reader of the *Farmer* to take advantage of this liberal offer. Send in your subscription at once.

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

There's nothing better than a good book, and if you intend making a Christmas present, and want to purchase, send to the
MAINE FARMER
for special catalogue and extremely low prices.

Have You a Dictionary?

The *Maine Farmer* will sell at a low price the STANDARD DICTIONARY, two volumes, well bound, just received from the publishers.

Grange News.

Maine State Grange.
State Master,
Obadiah Gardner, Rockland.
State Overseer,
F. S. Adams, Bowdoin.
State Lecturer,
Elijah Cook, Vassalboro.
State Secretary,
E. H. Libby, Auburn, Dirigo P. O
Executive Committee,
Obadiah Gardner, Rockland.
E. H. Libby. Auburn
Hon. B. F. Briggs, Auburn.
L. W. Jose, Dexter
D. O. Bowen, Morrill.
Boyden Bearce, East Eddington.

Grange Gatherings.
Dec. 19-22—Maine State Grange, Augusta.

Aroostook County Pomona Grange has organized a seed company with a capital of $10,000, to handle seed potatoes and other seed.

Aroostook Union Grange, So. Presque Isle, celebrated the anniversary of the order, Saturday, Dec. 2, with a supper and literary programme, at which their families were present.

About one hundred and twenty-five attended the meeting of Aroostook County Pomona Grange at Caribou, Saturday, Dec. 9th. An interesting programme was given by Caribou grange.

The grange hall at East Madison is in the hands of the painters, who are adding the finishing touches. The hall shows what can be accomplished by united effort based on grange principles. The officers of 1900 will be installed in the new hall the 13th of January, on which date or before the hall will be dedicated.

Danville Junction grange held a fair last week, three days, the hall being crowded each day, and the net profits were $233.01. This winds up a most prosperous year, both in numbers and interest. A 30-foot extension to the hall is contemplated another year. The new stable is complete, outside and in, for 50 horses. This is grange work which tells.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, Dexter grange worked third and fourth degrees on four candidates. The work was done in form and looked very pretty. The grange voted to hold a part of their meetings in the afternoon, commencing Dec. 16. They had a question to discuss, also a paper to be read by brother and sister Forest Hutchinson. In the evening they held a five-cent sociable to which the public were invited.

The next meeting of Oxford Pomona grange will be held at Norway, Jan. 2. Programme: Forenoon, conferring 5th degree and routine work; afternoon, music, Norway grange; recitation, Minnie Cox; reading, Melvin Munroe; song, Norway grange; subject for discussion, "What is the greatest question before the American people at the present time and why?" G. F. Hammond, L. T. Brett; declamation, Paris grange; reading, West Paris grange; music, Norway grange.

Sheepscot Valley grange is now doing good work; the programmes are well carried out, and all the members seem to be in earnest. Five new members have been added and two more applications in. The hall, which was partially sheathed, has been finished, and a dining room and closets are being finished. This will make a cheerful, cosy home where we hope to see good work done in the near future.

UNION GRANGE MEETING.

The Union Grange met with Windsor Grange, Dec. 9, 1899. Owing to rough traveling and heavy wind, no members were present from out of town, excepting Sisters Ripley and Taylor, of Pittson.

About thirty members of Windsor Grange were present and the hours were spent in a pleasant and profitable manner.

The following question was discussed. "Which is the more profitable. mixed or special farming?" Question was opened by Bro. J. H. Barton, who was followed by Bros. S. F. Reeves, David Given, Hartwell Ware, C. W. Lowell, Miles Moody, A. H. Ware. It was the general opinion that mixed farming is more profitable. The following impromptu programme was given.

Essay by Bro. Given, very interesting. Original remarks on an old poem, by Bro. C. W. Lowell.

Reading, Sister Lowell; recitation, Alice Belle Donnell; recitation, Edith Given; solo, Bro. A. H. Ware; singing, by the Grange.

Bro. A. H. Ware and wife were appointed to edit paper for next Union Grange, which meets at Chelsea.

A BAD CUSTOM.

Mr. Editor:—Will you kindly allow one of your readers to call attention to a custom which seems to be getting quite prevalent among the granges of our State, and which, I feel sure, the members of those granges can hardly have given due consideration? I refer to the sending of chain letters for the purpose of obtaining money to build halls, or for other necessary expenses.

The principle is wrong, and it seems to me that it belittles our Order.

For instance, a letter is sent, asking that ten cents be sent to the grange from which the letter originates, and that three exact copies be made and sent to friends.

The sum asked for, and also the number of copies varies, but this is the customary call. The person responding cannot reckon the time spent in writing a letter, together with stationery and postage, at less than five cents; consequently four letters and the amount asked for aggregate thirty cents that the person spends in order to give the soliciting grange ten cents. Or in other words, every dollar received by a grange in this way costs the Patrons of the state three dollars.

Now I do not wish to be considered parsimonious, for the cause of the Patrons lies very near to my heart, and I give as freely, both of time and money, as circumstances will allow; but it does seem to me that it would be more self-respecting, to say the least, for granges to solicit personally, if need be, and then if more is needed, take some business like way of raising the money.

Kennebec County.

GRANGE ELECTIONS.

Skowhegan:
Master—W. B. Whittier.
Overseer—R. F. Parker.
Lecturer—Ella H. Crowell.
Steward—W. D. Bradbury.
Assistant Steward—E. J. Kimball.
Chaplain—Mrs. C. B. White.
Treasurer—E. D. Packard.
Secretary—S. F. Emerson.
Gate Keeper—D. G. Spofford.
Ceres—Mrs. W. B. Whittier.
Pomona—Mrs. R. F. Parker.
Flora—Mrs. C. W. Goodrich.
L. A. Steward—Eva E. Gage.

York Pomona:
Master—T. J. Carle, Hollis.
Overseer—E. M. Dearborn, Orchard.
Lecturer—Jacob Smith, Alewive.
Steward—A. B. Stevens, No. Alfred.
Asst. Steward—Ralph Pease, Cornish.
Chaplain—Eld. W. H. Cotton, Buxton.
Treasurer—C. K. Littlefield, Alewive.
Secretary—A. M. Butler, Springvale.
Gate Keeper—Herbert Coffin, Berwick.
Ceres—Mrs. R. G. Pease, Cornish.
Pomona—Mrs. E. M. Dearborn, Orchard.
Flora—Eunice A. Hill, Great Mills.
L. A. Steward—Mrs. A. B. Stevens, No. Alfred.

Pittston grange:
Worthy Master—F. M. Lapham.
Overseer—G. K. Mansir.
Lecturer—May L. Marson.
Steward—Roger Lapham.
Assistant Steward—I. N. Lapham.
Chaplain—Mrs. J. B. Ripley.
Treasurer—J. A. Kenney.
Secretary—I. B. Ripley.
Gate Keeper—Daniel Warren.
Pomona—Nellie Moody.
Flora—Mrs. G. R. Mansir.
Ceres—Mrs. F. M. Lapham.
L. A. Steward—M. C. Scott.
Executive Committee—E. A. Lapham, W. E. Seekins, Benj. Elkins.

Cushnoc grange, Riverside:
Worthy Master—C. O. Gardner.
Overseer—J. S. Clark.
Lecturer—Mrs. J. S. Clark.
Steward—C. W. Crowell.
Asst. Steward—L. J. Arey.
Chaplain—Mrs. J. M. Cross.
Treasurer—E. C. Getchell.
Secretary—M. A. Getchell.
Gate Keeper—Payson Robbins.
Ceres—Mrs. C. W. Crowell.
Flora—Mrs. E. C. Getchell.
Pomona—Mrs. Della Dickey.
L. A. Steward—Mrs. L. J. Arey.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POMONA.

The report of a very important meeting of the Cumberland Pomonas was crowded out of our last issue. A report was made by Peter Stewart, of Windham, a well known farmer and business man of his town, at a previous meeting of the grange, as the chairman of a special committee appointed to consider the question of taxation, and in it he assailed the board of State assessors. The report then proceeded to make the following series of demands:

"Therefore, we the P. of H. in Pomona assembled, make and declare the following statements to be some of the grievances of which we complain, and we solemnly pledge ourselves to do all in our power as free American citizens and good patrons to secure through the next legislature that justice and equity which the people have a right to demand.

First—That the laws relating to taxation may be so amended and adjusted, that corporations, franchises and holders of large tracts of the public lands pay their just and equal share of taxation.

Second—That the time has come when economy and not prodigality should be the watchword of our next legislature; there can be no apology for borrowing money to pay the legitimate expenses of the state.

"Third—That there is no necessity for erecting new state or county offices or of increasing salaries of either state or county officers; we should, however, recommend that through proper enactment the office of Governor's council should be abolished, and that of state auditor be substituted.

Fourth—That the duty of the people has been fully performed when they have furnished a good public and high school; that in towns where academies exist with no high school, such academies should be entitled to their share from the state school fund when they take the place of the high school.

"Fifth—That the salaries of the members of the legislature be increased to the extent that they may meet their expenses while in session, to the end that honest and able men, though poor, may reasonably aspire to legislative honors and not be compelled to make a sacrifice they can ill afford.

"Sixth—The state university has no pre-eminence over other colleges in the state, therefore we fail to see why it should longer be a ward of the state.

"Seventh—That committees of legislature be appointed to make a thorough inspection of all the public lands throughout the state owned by individuals and companies and report to the state assessors as soon as may be the real value of said land, to the end that a just and equitable valuation may be placed on the same; and that an appropriation be made to meet the expenses of said committee.

"Eighth—That appropriations for more than two years carry the presumption that either a job is being perpetrated (a la Tammany), or that the next legislature will be made up of either honest men, good and true, or consummate ignoramuses. We stamp this mode of legislation with our unqualified disapproval."

Section five was promptly killed and the remainder given a hearty endorsement, that relating to the state university provoking a lengthy discussion.

THE DAIRYMEN'S MEETING.

The annual conference and exhibition of the dairymen of the state, held in the wideawake city of Lewiston last week under the joint auspices of the State Board of Agriculture and the recently organized state dairymen's association, was in all respects a successful and profitable occasion. The exercises closed on Wednesday evening too late for notice in our last week's issue. A large measure of the success attending this meeting may be credited to the warm reception extended by the city and the excellent facilities gratuitously furnished for its exhibition and its meetings. The capacious city hall with its many anterooms gave all the privileges required in the different features of such an occasion. It was the board of trade of that city which at the suggestion of Messrs. A. L. and E. F. Goss took the proposition to hold this meeting in that city in hand, and which stood sponsor to see that nothing was left undone that would in any degree contribute to its full success. The city authorities gladly concurred with the action of the board of trade and freely granted on their part all that was desired or needed. Certainly the representatives of this great industry, so closely interwoven with our daily life, have reason for encouragement in that their efforts to extend the business and perfect its products are being appreciated by that other class of the people concerned only on the side of consumption of the products.

The exhibition of products of the dairy drawn together were on the whole creditable to our dairy work, and certainly prove that our dairymen are being educated up to a higher standard of efficiency. While all through the collection there was the unavoidable evidence of winter conditions, yet inferior products are not now found on our exhibition tables.

The lectures and papers given at the meeting were in the main of a high order. The gentlemen from abroad, Hon. H. C. Adams of Wisconsin, who spoke on the general subject of pure foods; Mr. Henry Van Dresser of Cobleskill, New York, who had for his subject the breeding and care of dairy cows, and Mr. Valancey E. Fuller, the well known Jersey expert, whose subject was the breeding up of a buttermaking herd, were masters in their line. Their lectures were of a high standard and cannot fail of leaving a lasting influence with their hearers.

The attendance on the meeting was large. Leading dairymen were present from all parts of the state. They came there for the purpose of learning, and crowded around the speakers and experts eager to catch every word dropped from their lips and seeking opportunity to question them further on subjects of special interest. There is no measuring the influence that goes out from such a gathering—a meeting of specialists with experts.

The *Farmer* presented last week all that was possible of the addresses and now adds what we can find space for from those left over regretting that valuable papers cannot yet be given. The attendance was larger the second day than the first and the closing session under the management of the State Dairymen's Association found the hall well filled, indicating a degree of interest in the new organization not realized by its most zealous friends.

Feeding, Care and Development of the Cow.

One of the best lectures before the convention was that of Mr. Henry Van Dreser, Eureka Stock and Poultry Farm, Cobleskill, N. Y. Mr. Van Dreser is a model institute lecturer, full of enthusiasm, a large measure of which he at once awakens in his hearers on whatever subject he may be speaking. A farmer himself he speaks from the standpoint of experience and comes right down and puts himself into the confidence of his hearers. Eureka Stock and Poultry Farm is located in a beautiful section of the Schoharie Valley and consists of two hundred acres. Of Dutch descent, Mr. Van Dreser at first sight fell in love with the black and white Holstein cattle, and from a herd of them got his start in the world and won his well deserved reputation as a stock breeder and milk farmer. He acted on the advice he gave his hearers in his lecture to choose the kind of stock you love. Everything raised on the farm is fed to stock on the farm.

Later on in his experience Mr. Van Dreser had his attention turned to poultry, and loving them as he had his cows he easily and as readily made them as successful, and now is giving his principal efforts to the poultry industry.

But it was of cows that he discoursed in his lecture. "The truth makes us free" said he. He felt acquainted with his hearers for they were all farmers together and all engaged in the business of dairying. The cow is the mother of the human race. How is she treated! When he goes over the country and sees how the cow is neglected his heart is made sad at the sight. Farmers are a hard working class and when dragged down with labor are mentally inactive. A man physically tired is mentally dwarfed. Exercise the muscle less and the brain more.

The dairy cow is a machine. To run the machine successfully we must study her characteristics. An open organization all over for a milk cow; a close organization for a beef cow. From this he went on to describe the points of a dairy cow in detail much as they are known and recognized by every good judge of these animals. To make dairying profitable these characteristics must be studied. Too many inferior cows are kept. If one has a herd of these they mean his financial ruin.

All men cannot breed thoroughbred cattle, so grades must be bred. In breeding grades the bull is the prime factor. His characteristics must be studied. No other than thoroughbred bulls should be used. Yet pedigree without the desirable animal accompanying it is of no value. Would not use a bull that does not show four well developed rudimentals. If there is a man here who is in debt he cannot afford to keep a scrub animal. Of all things he never should purchase a thoroughbred scrub. Get animals of marked nervous energy. The bull is of most importance for he stamps himself on a large number of offspring each season while a cow stamps her image on but one.

Keep the best calves every time. Take them from the cow at once and never let them suck their dam. It is better for the calf and best for the cow. Give new milk for three weeks and then gradually change to skim milk.

In answer to the question of what breed to select he said:

"The breed you like best. No one can go amiss with any of the dairy breeds. Am not here in the interest of those who have money to burn. But for the man who has a mortgage to lift, the old ways must give way to the new and the better. Fathers of to day, give your sons the right hand of fellowship and hold them with you on the farm.

Following this most excellent lecture, a few minutes of time remaining, the Hon. Mr. Adams was called out, and in responding said he was glad of an opportunity to endorse the address of the morning. He has been through this mill in which all farmers have to tread. These meetings are held for the purpose of improving the farmers' condition. The average American farmer has greater possibilities in himself than he is aware of. He wanted to emphasize every word the speaker had said. Men keep cows not worth their feed. Get rid of them. If one has not the means to invest at once in what he needs, get a good sire and take time for it and breed up. A dairy cow has no business to be hardy—she has better business on hand. We want the good cow because she makes us money.

Market Reports.

REPORT OF WATERTOWN AND BRIGHTON LIVE STOCK MARKET.

[Specially Reported for the Maine Farmer.
Live Stock Yards, Dec. 19, 1899.

Maine Drovers.	Hogs.	Cattle.	Sheep	Veals.
Maine. At Brighton.				
P. A. Berry,		15		10
J. S. P. Jones,		31		2
Libby Bros.,		43		45
Thompson & Hanson,		20	50	40
McIntire & Wardwell,		20		25
M. D. Stockman,		7		12
A. W. Stanley,		7		5
M. D. Holt & Son,		18		45
H. M. Lowe,		24	40	40
Harris & Fellows,		60	75	75
G. H. Lowell,		16	45	10
W. W. Hall & Son,		20		20
R. E. Freeman,		9		19
New Hampshire. At Brighton.				
J. H. Neal,		22		
W. J. Brown,		16		
A. C. Foss,		15		
At N. E. D. M. & Wool Co.				
J. W. Sanborn,	293			
Northern shippers	35	40	175	150
At Watertown.				
F. D. F. Baker,	15	6	104	6
Courser & Sanborn,		10	4	6
H. A. Wilcox,		7		12
Breck & Wood,		30	55	50
W. F. Wallace,	18	83	57	184

THE AGGREGATE OF LIVE STOCK AT WATERTOWN AND BRIGHTON YARDS.

Cattle, 2,278; sheep, 8,593; hogs, 33,745; veals, 1,544; horses, 335.

Last week:
Cattle, 2,628; sheep, 7,924; hogs, 30,318; veals, 1,739; horses, 464.

MAINE STOCK AT MARKET.

Cattle, 290; sheep, 210; hogs, —; veals, 377; horses, 75.

LIVE STOCK EXPORTS TO OLD ENGLAND.

A light shipment from Boston amounting to 747 cattle and 20 horses. Latest cable at London gives sales of state cattle at 12@12¾c, dressed weight.

CONDITION OF THE MARKET.

Butchers were not buying heavily in any line of live stock. It being only a few days before Christmas they were not expected to load up heavy; it would not be good judgment to buy heavily in the line where the requirements are light. What they bought was such as they thought they could readily dispose of. Cattle were selling from 2@6c, live weight.

Sheep and lambs were in light demand, but what were offered found a fair sale at steady rates. Northern flocks were rather slim this week. Sheep at 2½@4c; lambs at 4½@5c lb.

Movement in fat hogs continues unchanged. J. P. Squire & Co. continue killing as usual and it is expected that the firm will pull through, only giving them time to turn themselves. Prices remain as last week on both western and northern. The western fat hogs cost 3⅞@4⅜c, live weight; northern at 5@5¼c, dressed weight.

A good supply of veal calves on the market, not an active demand still last week's prices were generally sustained on all grades. Sales from 3½@6c per lb.

Milch cows in fair demand. This week was one when the market was well supplied with superior grades, the cream of the country selling from $45 up to $60 or more dollars. The demand for ordinary kind of cows not extensive Choice cows cost from $50@70; extra cows, $40@48; common cows, $20@38.

This is generally the dullest month in the year for the sale of horses and this month is not an exception. There was something doing in the better class of horses, both roadsters and heavy draft and on such prices were sustained. Range in prices, $60@225, including light and heavy.

SALES OF MAINE STOCK.

Train of eastern stock being late at the yards, sales were made only at a late hour. Eastern cattle sold at a range of 3@6c per lb; Maine calves from 5@6c mostly; eastern lambs at 4@5c, and sheep, 2½@4c; milch cows. W. W. Hall & Son had a very choice Holstein, better than anything at market; very seldom that a cow is noticed as good. Libby Bros. sold 2 choice cows at $50@52; 10 cows, from $40@45; 5 cows at $30@37-50.

The market is not in a very flourishing condition, and in December the general business is not expected to be extensive in any line, excepting in the Christmas line. For really choice cattle good prices are paid, for butchers are not buying heavily in any quality. There is so much dressed poultry in the market selling at low rates that the demand for meats is somewhat light, but butchers want a certain amount and prices are generally sustained. The export trade is very much affected by the want of steamers to take over the stock. There were no shipments of dressed beef last week from this port, when usually there are from 12,000@15,000 quarters a week. The English steamers are taken for transport for war purposes.

LATE SALES AT BRIGHTON LAST WEDNESDAY.

Supply of milch cows not especially heavy and sales could be improved both in price and activity. Libby Bros. sold 20 cows from $25@55. Breck & Wood sold 28 milch cows from $35@55. Harris & Fellows sold 20 cows all the way from $30@50. H. M. Lowe sold 2 oxen of 3,210 lbs. very fancy at 6¼c; 2 of 2,750 lbs. at 5c and milch cows from $30@50; 115 lambs of 68 lbs. at 5c; 108 sheep of 9,780 lbs. at 3¼c. D. G. Lougee sold 8 oxen averaging 1,500 lbs. at 5⅞c; 2 of 1,600 lbs., 4½c; 3 bulls of 1,200 lbs. at 3½c; 5 cows for milk at $30@45. M. D. Holt & Son sold cows from $30@50. Thompson & Hanson sold 9 milch cows at $40@55; 10 cows at $30@38; 4 oxen of 3,420 and 3,710 lbs. a pair at 6c. E. E. Chapman sold 8 oxen of 1,500 lbs. at 4½c; 2 choice milch cows, $50 each; 1 cow, $30; 2 at $35 each; 1 at $25. F. W. Wormwell sold 11 cows at $35@50; 1 yearling store bull, $15. S. Tracy 8 cows from $40@55.

Store Pigs. Light run and moderate demand at $1.50@2 25; shoats at $3.50@5.50.

BOSTON PRODUCE MARKET.

Boston, Dec. 20, 1899.

Flour holds dull but unchanged. Corn meal unchanged. Corn quiet. Oats quiet without change in prices. Hay is without much change. Straw quiet. Millfeed quiet.

Poultry.

In spite of the rainy weather, there was a pretty good trade in poultry yesterday. The supply, so far, is really small, but prices are only steady: Choice northern turkeys, 14@17c; western, 10@14c; northern chickens, 13@17c; fowl, 11½@13c; western chickens, 10@12½c.

Beef.

Beef is rather quiet: Steers, 8@9c; hinds, 10@11c; fores, 6@7c.

Pork.

No changes are noted in pork and lard, though Chicago was easier.

Muttons, Lambs and Veal.

Mutton is very dull: Mutton, 4½@6c; lamb, 5@7c; veal, 6@10c.

Beans.

Trade is light: Pea, $2@2.05; extra yellow eyes, $2 30@2 45.

Apples.

Apples are dull, prices unchanged: Gravensteins, $3@3 50; Baldwins, $2@2.50; Greenings, $1.75@2.50; No. 2 and mixed varieties, $1@1 50; jobbing and fancy lots, 50c@$1 per bbl more.

Potatoes.

Potatoes are a little easier: Aroostook hebrons, 60@63c per bush; Green Mountains, 63@65c.

Butter.

There is no material change to note in the butter market from last week. Trade has been light, and there was hardly enough business the past two days to base quotations upon. As usual, near the close of the year, buyers have been slow to operate beyond immediate wants, and this, in connection with the financial flurry, makes a dull market. Produce dealers, as a rule, are in sound condition, and only one firm has become embarrassed on account of the failure of the John P. Squire Company. The western markets are reported steady, with a small make of butter in all directions.

Cheese.

There is nothing new to note in the cheese situation. A firm tone is maintained, with about the usual demand at this time of year. Sales of the September twins run along at 13 cents. with a few fancy makes at a higher rate. For other fall makes the range is from 12 to 12¾ cents.

Eggs.

The tone of the market for fresh eggs has been rather tame the past few days, with prices barely maintained. The finest fresh Eastern command 25@27 cents, with new laid at 30 cents, but ordinary Eastern move off as slowly as Western. Choice fresh gathered Western have been selling at 24 to 25 cents, but only a small portion of the receipts come up to this standard.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET.

The past week's market in wool has been a quiet one with no change in prices. December is always a quiet month, and manufacturers are all carrying heavy stock, especially the heavy mills. The bulk of business of the week has been with the smaller manufacturers. Holders ideas are up on price of domestic wools, when considering that the London sales of Monday last were firm at an advance of 5 per cent. over opening quotations. Transactions of the past week, whatever may be the ideas of holders, have not shown any advance in prices.

PORTLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1899.

Corn and oats are steady. Flour is quiet. Pork provisions and lard firm at the advance. Sugar is quiet. Dry fish and mackerel dull and easier. Coffees are quiet. Teas quiet and firm. Cheese active and firmer. Beans steady. Groceries of all kinds fairly active and firmer. Potatoes firm. Eggs easy. Butter quiet and steady. Fresh beef firmer. Muttons and lambs firmer and about 1c higher.

Apples—Eating apples, $2@3 25 per bbl. Dried, 6@7c. Evaporated, 8½@10c per lb.

Butter—Creamery, 25@28c; Vermont dairy, 23@25c.

Beans—Maine pea, $2 15@2 20; California pea, $2 50@2 55; Yellow Eyes, $2 40@2 45.

Cheese—Sage, 15c; Vermont dairy, 14@14½c.

Flour—Low grades, $2 65@2 80; Spring wheat, $3 40@3 60; patent Spring wheat, 4 30@4 50; Michigan straight roller, $3 85@4 00; winter wheat patents, $4 15@4 25.

Fish—Cod, Shore, $4 75@5 00; herring, per box, 11@16c.

Grain—Corn, car lots, 44c; bag lots, 46@47c; oats car lots, 33@33½c; bag lots, 35@36c; meal, bag lots, 44@45c; shorts, sack, car lots, $18@18 50; shorts, bag lots, $19@19 50; middlings, $18@20; middlings, bag lots, $19@20 50; cottonseed meal, car lots, $25; bag lots, $26.

Lard—Bbl., pure, 6⅞@7c; pails, compd, 5¾@5⅞c; pails, pure, 7⅛@7¾c; pure leaf, 9@9¼c.

Potatoes—60@65c per bush.

Provisions—Fowl, 10@12c; chickens, 12@14c; turkeys, 13@16c; eggs, 27@28c; beef, 6½@8c; pork backs, $13.75; hams, 10¼@10¾c.

AUGUSTA CITY PRODUCE MARKET.

[Corrected Dec. 20, for the Maine Farmer, by G. W. Wadleigh.]

Cheese higher. New domestic cheese firm. Eggs scarce. Potatoes in good demand. Butter dull. Fowl plenty. Chickens in better demand. Pork steady. Spring lambs, easy. Veal firm. Beans higher.

Beans—Western pea beans, $2 00 Yellow Eyes, $2 00.

Butter—Ball butter, 20c. Creamery, 24c.

Cheese—Factory, 10c; Sage, 13c.

Eggs—Fresh, 27c per dozen.

Lard—In pails, best, 9c.

Provisions—Wholesale — Clear salt pork, $11 50 per bbl.; beef per side, 8½ ham, smoked, 10½c; fowl, 10c; veal, 8c; round hog, 5½c; lamb, 8c. Spring chickens, 12@14c; native turkeys, 16@20c.

Potatoes—35@40c per bush.

Cabbages—1c per lb.

Beets—1c per lb.

Turnips—40c per bush.

Apples—$2 50 per bbl.

Cranberries—$5 00 @6 00 per bbl.

AUGUSTA HAY, GRAIN AND WOOL MARKET.

[Corrected Dec. 20, for the Maine Farmer by B. F. Parrott & Co.]

Straw—Pressed, $9; loose, $5@6.

Shorts—95c per hundred, $19 00 ton lots. Mixed Feed, 98c.

Wool—20c per lb.; spring lamb skins, 65@80c; calf skins, 11c per lb.

Cotton Seed Meal—Bag lots, $1 30 $25 50, ton lots.

Chicago Gluten Meal—Ton lots $22 50; bag lots, $1 50; Buffalo, ton lots $18, bag lots, $1 25.

Flour—Full winter patents, $4 40; Spring patents, $4 30@4 50; roller process, straight, $3 85@4 00; low grade, $2 50@3 40.

Sugar—$5 05 per hundred.

Hay—Loose $10@12; pressed, $12.

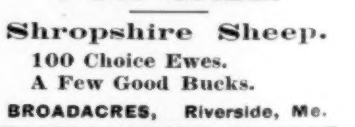
Hides and Skins—Cow hides, 8c; ox hides, 8c; bulls and stags, 7c.

Lime and Cement—Lime, $1 10 per cask; cement, $1 45.

Hard Wood—Dry, $5@5 50; green $3 00@4 00.

Grain—Corn, 47½c; meal, bag lots, 85c.

Oats—72c, bag lots.



KENNEBEC COUNTY . . . *In Probate Court at Augusta, in vacation, Dec. 19, 1899.*

Charles C. Morrill, Administrator on the estate of Charles H. Taylor, late of Augusta, in said county, deceased, having presented his first account of administration for allowance:

Ordered, That notice thereof be given three weeks successively, prior to the second Monday of January next, in the Maine Farmer, a newspaper printed in Augusta, that all persons interested may attend at a Probate Court then to be held at Augusta, and show cause, if any, why the same should not be allowed.

G. T. Stevens, Judge.
Attest: W. A. Newcomb, Register. 8

KENNEBEC COUNTY . . . *In Probate Court at Augusta, in vacation, Dec. 12th, 1899.*

A Certain Instrument, purporting to be the last will and testament of Gorham R. Towle, late of Augusta, in said County, deceased, having been presented for probate:

Ordered, That notice thereof be given three weeks successively, prior to the second Monday of January next, in the Maine Farmer, a newspaper printed in Augusta, that all persons interested may attend at a Probate Court, then to be holden at Augusta, and show cause, if any, why the said instrument should not be proved, approved and allowed as the last will and testament of the said deceased.

G. T. Stevens, Judge.
Attest: W. A. Newcomb, Register. 8

KENNEBEC COUNTY . . *In Probate Court at Augusta, on the second Monday of December, 1899.*

On petition for the appointment of Frederick L. Hopkins, of Augusta as administrator of the estate of Henry R. Hopkins, late of said Augusta, deceased.

Ordered, That notice thereof be given three weeks successively, prior to the second Monday of January next, in the Maine Farmer, a newspaper printed in Augusta, that all persons interested may attend at a Court of Probate, then to be holden at Augusta and show cause, if any, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

G. T. Stevens, Judge.
Attest: W. A. Newcomb, Register. 8

KENNEBEC COUNTY . . . *In Probate Court at Augusta, in vacation, December 18, 1899.*

Samuel F. Tibbetts, Executor of the last will and testament of Benjamin L. Tibbetts, late of Vassalboro, in said County, deceased, having presented his final account as Executor of said will for allowance:

Ordered, That notice thereof be given three weeks successively, prior to the second Monday of January next, in the Maine Farmer, a newspaper printed in Augusta, that all persons interested may attend at a Probate Court then to be held at Augusta, and show cause, if any, why the same should not be allowed.

8 G. T. Stevens, Judge.
Attest: W. A. Newcomb, Register.

THE MAINE FARMER PUBLISHING
Vol. LXVIII.

Maine Farmer.

Z. A. GILBERT, Agricultural Editor.

Read over again the invaluable lectures given at the dairy convention by Mr. Fuller and Mr. Van Dreser and note whether there are not important matters there stated on which you can improve your own practices. To get the advantages from such lectures, one must study their teachings.

The propriety of having the butter of the exhibition scored on the New York standard does not appear, so long as our Maine butter is sold on the Boston standard. If there is a distinction between the standards of butter in these two great market centers it is good sense to make our butter for the market in which it is to be sold.

In calling the attention of fruit growers to the differences in conditions and results characterizing different localities, the *Country Gentleman* remarks that at present there is a great deal of planting of Ben Davis in New England, partly because that variety succeeds in Arkansas and the West. Is there not some truth in such a statement?

The State Pomological Society, we are glad to announce, has completed arrangements for another combined exhibition and meeting to be held at New Gloucester in January. This is work of the right kind. Fruit growers of Cumberland, Oxford and Androscoggin can easily center at that point. Look out for the premium list and programme and prepare to rally on the occasion.

The man who slaughtered the fowl with the profitable habit of laying golden eggs was wisdom itself beside those Maine farm fakirs who are shipping doctored cream. The market for such cream is soon skimmed.—*Editorial in N. E. Homestead.*

The above libel on Maine farmers comes from a paper-seeking patronage among those whom it libels. While the *Homestead* does not squarely charge that Maine farmers are selling doctored cream, for it knows better, yet it purposely shapes its language to leave it to be understood that Maine cream of which so much is being sold in Massachusetts, is a doctored product. We know not how much our Maine cream is doctored after it goes into the hands of Massachusetts dealers, but we have no "farm fakirs" in Maine "shipping doctored cream," and the *Homestead* knows it is acting a falsehood for the purpose of injuring the Maine cream trade.

FARM LIFE.

The question has been raised and is being discussed in some papers whether or not farm life can be made as attractive as other occupations. While discussion is always beneficial as far as it leads to thought and investigation, there is little prospect that this question will ever be settled to the conviction and satisfaction of all classes for the very reason that classes exist, and their ideas of what is attractive vary as much as the size of their shoes or the color of their hair. It is worthy of note also that the ideas regarding any given situation in life are not controlled by the present occupation of persons in question. Among merchants we find men who are in love with the business activity in which they are engaged and would be lost and uneasy in any other situation, and others who are kept there by force of circumstances and are looking forward to the time when they can close out and settle quietly on a farm where they imagine that the ideal existence of mankind is found. On the other hand we find farmers who are fairly successful yet feel all the time as if they were kept at the foot of the social class by circumstances over which they were unable to rise, and that farm life is a round of drudgery.

The ideas will be found to differ as widely in the minds of the young people, who have had no experience to influence their minds either way. It is probably a fact, however, that under the present tendencies and customs of society there are more young people on the farm who are looking for some other situation than there are in other occupations looking toward the farms, though there are many who have seen the farm in its summer dress when they were enjoying a few weeks' escape from the noise and dust of city life, who think a permanent country residence would bring happiness unmixed.

We are all victims of habit in thought as well as in action, and whether a position or an occupation is attractive or not depends on the circumstances of our first introduction to it and on the feature of the surroundings to which our attention has been most largely called. To make any business attractive there must be an interest in it and a love for it beyond the mere killing of time and procuring the necessaries of existence. There must be a looking forward to the results of labor beside the pecuniary returns; an enjoyment in the endeavor to accomplish a thing and in learning to take advantage of surrounding forces and conditions. And all this again depends on habit. If a person gets the habit of doing what must be done for that reason and no other,